

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Winter 1997 Volume 67 Number 1



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FRONT COVER: Red-necked Phalarope at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County, 11 August 1996. Photo by Reid Allen.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

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SPECIMENS OF IOWA BIRDS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM

THOMAS E. LABEDZ

The University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM) was founded in 1871. Since that time UNSM has been committed to the careful scientific gathering and study of natural specimens from Nebraska, the Midwest, and around the world. As collections manager in UNSM's Division of Zoology, I became aware that the avian collections held a number of specimens from Iowa, 417 out of nearly 11,000 avian specimens. The purpose of this article is to bring these specimens to the attention of ornithologists working in Iowa and elsewhere. All specimens are available for short-term, research-based loans to institutions with facilities for their care. All inquiries about the specimens are welcomed by the author.

Specimens are very important vouchers of the environment at the time of collection, and I believe many of the UNSM specimens from Iowa can be linked to published work, allowing current and future workers to verify these earlier works. Dinsmore et al. (1984) discuss three major papers about ornithology in Iowa, Anderson (1907), DuMont (1933), and Brown (1971). Of the works listed, only Anderson and DuMont discuss specimens and collecting to any extent. Anderson (1907, p. 145) mentions for Franklin County that "Frank H. Shoemaker lists 150 species", the UNSM collection has 53 of Shoemaker's specimens from Franklin County. Anderson (1907, p.147) mentions that J. V. Crone reported birds from Buena Vista County in *The Iowa Ornithologist*, the UNSM collection has two specimens by Crone from that county. DuMont (1933, pp. 12-14) discusses known collections of Iowa birds but does not mention the UNSM collection; however he does mention that J. T. Zimmer examined collections at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. J. T. Zimmer's collections from Nebraska are now in the UNSM collection as are those of his colleague M. A. Carriker, Jr., whose 11 specimens from Iowa include those mentioned in print (Carriker 1901). In addition, I examined the author index of *An Annotated Bibliography of Iowa Ornithology* (Stephens, 1957) and found several matches of authors of papers and collectors of UNSM specimens. Time and resources do not permit attempts to match every specimen to a published work.

The species list is presented in order according to the American Ornithologists' Union checklist (AOU 1983) and supplements through 1995 (AOU 1995). Only species that have cataloged specimens available in the UNSM collections are listed. The number and kind of specimens are included with minor notes about county, date of collection (sometimes incomplete), catalog number, and any interesting information. The information presented is not the entire data set for each specimen. Those desiring a more complete data set for specimens should contact UNSM with the catalog numbers.

The importance of avian specimens in modern ornithological work is not shrinking, it is actually growing (Winkler et al. 1991). I thank all those who have had, and who currently have, the foresight to collect (or salvage) and properly prepare specimens for scientific study. In relation to the UNSM collection and Iowa birds, I especially thank Barbara L. Wilson for her great contributions of recent specimens. The assistance of W. Ross Silcock for the loan of Iowa references is greatly appreciated. I also appreciate the comments of James Dinsmore.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linnaeus). One (ZM-16505) found alive in Mills County on 9 August 1980, died 14 August 1980. A specimen (ZM-16901) from Montgomery County dated 8 November 1991. An egg set (ZM-8007) collected 15 July 1900 from Pottawattamie County.
- American White Pelican** *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin. One specimen (ZM-16572) dated 5 October 1988 from Mills County.
- American Bittern** *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Rackett). Egg sets from Buena Vista County dated 5 June 1892 (ZM-8173) and 28 May 1894 (ZM-8174).
- Great Blue Heron** *Ardea herodias* Linnaeus. A specimen (ZM-16890) from Mills County on 9 November 1991. Four egg sets from Pottawattamie County dated May 1900 (ZM-8187), 13 May 1900 (ZM-8191), 5 May 1901 (ZM-8190), and 17 May 1901 (ZM-8192).
- Green Heron** *Butorides virescens* (Linnaeus). One egg set (ZM-8207) from Franklin County dated 14 June 1893. Two egg sets from Fremont County dated 16 June 1898 (ZM-8202) and 24 May 1907 (ZM-8204).
- Tundra Swan** *Cygnus columbianus* (Ord). A specimen (ZM-16012) seized by law enforcement officers from a poacher 16 November 1979 in Fremont County.
- Snow Goose** *Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus). Three specimens from Fremont County (ZM-16585, 16586, 16587), one specimen from Harrison County (ZM-15813), and six specimens from Mills County (ZM-15403, 16583, 16584, 16634, 16635, 16636). All specimens are from the ten-year period of 1979 to 1988.
- Ross's Goose** *Chen rossii* (Cassin). One female (ZM-16493) from DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Harrison County on 14 November 1977. The collector is listed as George Gage with B.L. Wilson preparation number 437. This specimen was formerly number 730 in the University of Nebraska at Omaha collection.
- Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-15991) from Harrison County on 23 November 1987.
- Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa* (Linnaeus). Fourteen specimens (ZM-15966 to 15979) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaeus. Six specimens (ZM-15915 to 15920) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986. One egg set (ZM-8157) from Buena Vista County dated 8 April 1887.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* Linnaeus. One specimen (ZM-15913) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986.
- Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* Linnaeus. Two egg sets from Buena Vista County dated 1 June 1887 (ZM-8164) and 28 May 1887 (ZM-8165).
- Gadwall** *Anas strepera* Linnaeus. Two specimens (ZM-15954, 15955) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986.
- American Wigeon** *Anas americana* Gmelin. One specimen (ZM-15914) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986.
- Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria* (Wilson). One specimen (ZM-15965) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986.
- Redhead** *Aythya americana* (Eyton). Three specimens (ZM-15893, 15894, 15912) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986.
- Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* (Donovan). Twelve specimens (ZM-15900, 15901, 15908 to 15911, 15933, 15949 to 15953) from Allamakee County in October or November 1986.
- Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila* (Linnaeus). Five specimens from Allamakee County. Two (ZM-15907, 15948) are dated October or November 1986 while the others (ZM-16049 to 16051) are dated "fall" 1988.
- Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* (Eyton). Thirty-eight specimens from Allamakee County. Thirty-seven (ZM-15890 to 15892, 15895 to 15899, 15902 to 15906, 15921 to 15928, 15930, 15931, 15934 to 15947) are dated October or November 1986 while the other (ZM-16052) is dated "fall" 1988.
- Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* (Linnaeus). Three specimens from Allamakee County. One (ZM-15932) is dated October or November 1986 while the others (ZM-16053, 16054) are dated "fall" 1988.
- Turkey Vulture** *Cathartes aura* (Linnaeus). Two specimens, both received via Nebraska's Raptor Recovery Center (RRC) in Lincoln, Nebraska. One (ZM-16707) was received at RRC 24 August 1987 from Page County and died 5 September 1987. The other (ZM-16711) was received at RRC 25 June 1992 from Mills County and died 12 September 1992.
- Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-15851) received at RRC from Harrison County on 27 August 1986. One egg set (ZM-8321) from Buena Vista County on 1 June 1887.

- Cooper's Hawk** *Accipiter cooperii* (Bonaparte). Two specimens, one (ZM-16873) from Tama County dated 11 August 1989. The second (ZM-17226) was received at RRC on 17 August 1995 from Pottawattamie County. Five egg sets from Franklin County (ZM-8340 to 8344) dated 11 May 1891, 15 May 1893, 7 June 1893, 26 May 1892, and 1 May 1895.
- Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16874) was found emaciated, as result of being shot, in Guthrie County on 15 November 1986. This male had been banded as a hatching-year bird on 28 October 1985 at Duluth, Minnesota.
- Swainson's Hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* Bonaparte. One specimen (ZM-16914) received at RRC from Harrison County on 4 September 1993.
- Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis* (Gmelin). Four specimens and three egg sets. Two specimens, and all egg sets, are identified as the eastern (*B. j. borealis*) subspecies, one each from Harrison County (ZM-16570) dated 6 July 1992 and Pottawattamie County (ZM-16877) dated 23 February 1992. One specimen (ZM-17220) is identified as the western (*B. j. calurus*) subspecies and is dated 8 April 1995 from Monona County. An immature, subspecies undetermined, is from Mills County (ZM-16691) dated 4 November 1980. Two egg sets from Franklin County dated 7 April 1897 (ZM-8361) and 26 May 1893 (ZM-8362). One egg set from Pottawattamie County dated 6 April 1898 (ZM-8356).
- Rough-legged Hawk** *Buteo lagopus* (Pontoppidan). One dark-phase specimen (ZM-13592) from Union County in February 1978.
- American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* Linnaeus. Two specimens from Pottawattamie County dated 4 November 1981 (ZM-16506) and 11 March 1989 (ZM-16507).
- Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Linnaeus. One female (ZM-16433) received at RRC from Pottawattamie County on 23 February 1992 and died the next day.
- Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* Linnaeus. One specimen from Harrison County (ZM-16889) and three each from Mills (ZM-15815, 16673, 16690) and Pottawattamie (ZM-15816, 16492, 16674) counties. All specimens have dates from 1978 to 1986.
- Ruffed Grouse** *Bonasa umbellus* (Linnaeus). One set (ZM-8288) of six eggs from Franklin County dated 16 May 1891. The nest is described as "Nest of oak leaves and a few feathers, situated at the foot of a small oak on a hillside." Incubation was noted as advanced.
- Greater Prairie-Chicken** *Tympanuchus cupido* (Linnaeus). One set (ZM-8289) of 15 eggs from Franklin County dated 16 May 1892. The nest is described as "Nest composed of grasses and feathers, in a slight cavity. Situated in a low hazel brush, very nicely concealed under a tuft of grass." Incubation was noted as commenced.
- Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo* Linnaeus. Two specimens, one each from Clayton (ZM-15985) and Allamakee (ZM-16029) counties. Both dated in 1987.
- Northern Bobwhite** *Colinus virginianus* (Linnaeus). One specimen each from Harrison (ZM-16513), Mills (ZM-16723), Page (ZM-16512), and Pottawattamie (ZM-16724) counties. All are from the 1980s or 1990s.
- Sora** *Porzana carolina* (Linnaeus). Two specimens from Fremont County dated 17 May 1979 (ZM-16515) and 18 August 1985 (ZM-16516).
- American Coot** *Fulica americana* Gmelin. One specimen (ZM-16283) from Fremont County on 7 April 1984.
- Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus* Linnaeus. Two egg sets, one from Buena Vista County (ZM-8272) and dated 28 May but the year is noted only as 1890s. The other set (ZM-8271) is from Franklin County dated 15 June 1895. One specimen (ZM-16552) from Pottawattamie County dated 8 September 1988.
- Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (Bechstein). Two egg sets, one from Buena Vista County (ZM-8260) dated 8 June 1891. The other (ZM-8259) is from Palo Alto County and is not dated but was accessioned to the University of Nebraska State Museum in 1912.
- Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* (Vieillot). Three specimens, one each from Pottawattamie County (ZM-16365) dated 28 September 1991, Shelby County (ZM-16556) dated May 1988, and Story County (ZM-16878) dated 6 August 1988.
- Black-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (Wilson). Two egg sets from Pottawattamie County dated 16 June 1895 and 9 June 1894 (ZM-8455).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16631) from Harrison County dated 26 June 1980. Two specimens from Mills County dated 10 July 1981 (ZM-15831) and 30 June 1980 (ZM-16632). One specimen (ZM-16633) and one egg set (ZM-8450) from Pottawattamie County, dated 28 July 1980 and 24 June 1894 respectively.
- Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* (Scopoli). One female specimen (ZM-16488) found injured in Page County and died in captivity in May 1980.
- Eastern Screech-Owl** *Otus asio* (Linnaeus). From the Shenandoah area, Fremont/Page county (no specific county listed) a gray phase (ZM-15824) listed only as 1980. From Mills County a red

phase (ZM-16479) dated 8 November 1988. Two specimens from Pottawattamie County, one red phase (ZM-16477) and one gray phase (ZM-16478), dated 23 February 1982 and 7 April 1981 respectfully.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* (Gmelin). One egg set and thirteen specimens. The egg set (ZM-8429) is from Franklin County and dated 14 March 1897. One specimen (ZM-16729) is listed only as being from Iowa with no specific locality and another (ZM-16714) lists only southwestern Iowa. One specimen (ZM-11192) is from Fremont County in 1932, seven (ZM-15288, 15289, 15757, 16481, 16484, 16669, 16713) are from Mills County and date from 1979 to 1989, one (ZM-15821) is from Page County in 1981, and two (ZM-15820, 16343) are from Pottawattamie County and are dated 1979 and 1991.

Barred Owl *Strix varia* Barton. Two specimens from Mills County, a male (ZM-15817) dated 20 March 1979 and a female (ZM-16805) dated 4 March 1993.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets from Franklin County dated 19 May 1893 (ZM-8396) and 5 April 1893 (ZM-8397). One egg set (ZM-8398) from Pottawattamie County dated 19 April 1896. One specimen each from Mills (ZM-16489), Page (ZM-16490), and Shelby (ZM-16033) counties.

Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus* (Gmelin). One female specimen (ZM-16486) from Mills County and dated mid-November 1979.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (Linnaeus). Single specimens from Mills (ZM-16510) and Page (ZM-16511) counties, dated 28 May 1980 and 27 August 1988 respectively.

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* (Linnaeus). An egg set (ZM-8458) from Franklin County dated 22 May 1895. A specimen (ZM-16509) from Mills County dated 29 October 1982.

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Linnaeus). One egg set (ZM-8475) dated 21 May 1896 from Franklin County. Single specimens from Polk County (ZM-11345) dated 21 August 1932 and Pottawattamie County (ZM-16522) dated 29 June 1981.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* (Linnaeus). Three egg sets, one from Franklin County (ZM-8470) dated 25 May 1893 and two from Pottawattamie County dated 10 May 1896 (ZM-8468) and 12 May 1895 (ZM-8469).

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets, one from Pottawattamie County (ZM-8485) dated 12 May 1895 and another from Franklin County (ZM-8486) dated 16 May 1892. Two specimens, one from Mills County (ZM-16520) in 1981 and another (ZM-15826) from the Shenandoah area (no specific county listed) in 1980.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-12851) from Muscatine County. The specimen is dated 26 August "18--" and can likely be attributed to the 1880s because the collector, M.L. Eaton, has other specimens at UNSM from that time period. This male specimen was donated to UNSM in 1894.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* (Linnaeus). One egg set (ZM-8582) from Franklin County dated 15 June 1891.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* (Audubon). Three egg sets with nest and habitat descriptions. Two sets (ZM-8599, 8600) from Fremont County dated 11 June 1898 and 26 June 1898 respectively. One set (ZM-8608) from Pottawattamie County dated 24 June 1894. One specimen (ZM-16540) from Fremont County dated 17 August 1984.

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* (Latham). Two egg sets from Franklin County dated 27 April 1896 (ZM-8569) and 5 May 1891 (ZM-8570).

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* (Linnaeus). One egg set (ZM-8551) from Franklin County dated 24 June 1893.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets from Fremont County (ZM-8522, 8523), both dated 11 June 1898. One egg set (ZM-8533) from Franklin County dated 24 June 1893. One egg set (ZM-8534) from Linn County dated 15 June 1890. One specimen (ZM-15832) dated 20 July 1979 from Harrison County.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets from Franklin County dated 25 April 1896 (ZM-8621) and 1 April 1893 (ZM-8622). Nine specimens, one each from Mills (ZM-16542) and Pottawattamie (ZM-15833) counties dated 26 January 1982 and 22 January 1979 respectively. The seven remaining specimens are from Fremont County with one (ZM-15834) dated 3 February 1979 and the rest (ZM-17000 to 17005) dated 3 December 1985.

Purple Martin *Progne subis* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets, both with nest descriptions. One set (ZM-8983) Buena Vista County is dated 15 June 1887 and the other (ZM-8984) from Franklin County is dated 6 June 1891.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieillot). One egg set (ZM-9004) from Linn County dated 19 May 1890.

- Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets, both with nest descriptions. One set each from Fremont County (ZM-9011) dated 9 June 1909 and Franklin County (ZM-9014) dated 19 June 1893.
- Cliff Swallow** *Hirundo pyrrhonota* Vieillot. Two egg sets (ZM-8994, 8995), both collected 2 June 1891 from Franklin County. One specimen (ZM-16538) from Harrison County dated 12 August 1979.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Linnaeus. One egg set (ZM-9001) from Franklin County dated 6 June 1891. Ten specimens with one from Delaware County (ZM-14095) in 1966, three from Des Moines County (ZM-14089, 14094, 14096) in 1966, and one from Pottawattamie County (ZM-16664) in 1981. The remaining five specimens are from Mills County, one (ZM-16685) in 1979, three (ZM-16536, 16683, 16684) in 1980, and one (ZM-16665) in 1982.
- Blue Jay** *Cyanocitta cristata* (Linnaeus). One egg set each from Linn County (ZM-8645) dated 6 May 1895 and Pottawattamie County (ZM-8642) dated 2 June 1894.
- American Crow** *Corvus brachyrhynchos* Brehm. Nine egg sets with two from Pottawattamie County dated 22 April 1894 (ZM-8682) and 19 April 1896 (ZM-8678). The remaining seven sets from Franklin County dated 18 April 1891 (ZM-8676), 12 April 1893 (ZM-8681, 8683), 24 April 1893 (ZM-8677, 8680, 8685), and 12 April 1895 (ZM-8679).
- Black-capped Chickadee** *Parus atricapillus* Linnaeus. One egg set (ZM-9220) from Franklin County dated 15 May 1893. Fifteen specimens from five counties. Six specimens (ZM-6499 to 6504, 6507) from Clay County in 1934. One specimen (ZM-16534) from Mills County in 1986. Two specimens (ZM-6503, 6508) from Palo Alto County in 1934. Two specimens (ZM-6505, 6506) from Sioux County in 1934. Four specimens from Woodbury County with two (ZM-6495, 6497) in 1916 and two (ZM-6496, 6498) in 1918.
- House Wren** *Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot. One egg set (ZM-9195) from Pottawattamie County dated 30 May 1894.
- Eastern Bluebird** *Sialia sialis* (Linnaeus). Three egg sets, two from Franklin County dated 15 May 1893 (ZM-9277) and 18 May 1891 (ZM-9278). The other set (ZM-9279) is dated May 1899 from Linn County. Three specimens from Mills County (ZM-16531, 16694, 16695) from 1980 and 1982.
- American Robin** *Turdus migratorius* Linnaeus. One egg set (ZM-9272) from Linn County dated 7 May 1895. One specimen each from Fremont (ZM-16530) and Montgomery (ZM-16528) counties. Two specimens (ZM-16628, 16629) from Pottawattamie County.
- Gray Catbird** *Dumetella carolinensis* (Linnaeus). Three egg sets, one from Linn County (ZM-9162) on 16 June 1890 and two from Pottawattamie County on 2 June 1894 (ZM-9158) and 1 June 1895 (ZM-9160). One specimen (ZM-16716) from Mills County dated 24 June 1980.
- Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum* (Linnaeus). Three egg sets, one from Franklin County (ZM-9177) dated 24 June 1893 and two from Pottawattamie County dated 24 June 1894 (ZM-9171) and 1 June 1895 (ZM-9176). One specimen (ZM-15838) from Mills County dated 11 July 1979.
- Loggerhead Shrike** *Lanius ludovicianus* Linnaeus. Three egg sets from the same pair of birds in the same year (1893) in Franklin County. The pair rebuilt the nest each time and produced a new clutch. Dates are 20 April (ZM-9033), 4 May (ZM-9032), and 19 May (ZM-9031).
- European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus. One specimen (ZM-16667) from Mills County in 1980.
- White-eyed Vireo** *Vireo griseus* (Boddaert). Two egg sets (ZM-9050, 9051) from Fremont County, both dated 11 June 1898. Nest descriptions are on file. No White-eyed Vireo nests were found in southwestern Iowa in the recent Iowa breeding bird atlas project (Jackson et al. 1996).
- Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets, one (ZM-9037) from Fremont County dated 5 June 1896 and one (ZM-9042) from Pottawattamie County in 1897.
- Yellow Warbler** *Dendroica petechia* (Linnaeus). Six egg sets from three counties. Two sets (ZM-9088, 9090) from Franklin County, both dated 14 June 1893. Three sets (ZM-9070 to 9072) from Fremont County, all dated 11 June 1898. One set (ZM-9089) from Pottawattamie County dated 9 June 1894.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16551) from Mills County dated 20 October 1982.
- Black-and-white Warbler** *Mniotilta varia* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16545) from Polk County dated 21 September 1985.
- American Redstart** *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus). One egg set (ZM-9129) from Franklin County dated 12 June 1893.
- Common Yellowthroat** *Geothlypis trichas* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16717) from Fremont County in 1980.
- Hooded Warbler** *Wilsonia citrina* (Boddaert). One egg set (ZM-9124) from Fremont County dated 14 June 1906. Nest descriptions are on file. No Hooded Warbler nests were found in southwestern Iowa in the recent Iowa breeding bird atlas project (Jackson et al. 1996).

- Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* (Gmelin). One egg set each from Franklin County (ZM-8979) dated 17 June 1893 and Hardin County (ZM-8980) dated 12 June 1891.
- Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16594) from Mills County dated 11 October 1897.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (Linnaeus). One egg set (ZM-8942) from Buena Vista County dated 28 May 1887. Two specimens from Harrison County dated 23 June 1960 (ZM-15837) and 18 July 1979 (ZM-16597).
- Indigo Bunting** *Passerina cyanea* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16675) from Mills County died 16 June 1980 after being found injured the previous day.
- Dickcissel** *Spiza americana* (Gmelin). One egg set each from Franklin County (ZM-8962) dated 21 June 1895 and Pottawattamie County (ZM-8961) dated 10 June 1894. One specimen (ZM-16557) from Mills County dated 12 July 1991.
- Eastern Towhee** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Linnaeus). Three egg sets all attributed to the nominate subspecies *P. e. erythrophthalmus*. One set (ZM-8909) from Linn County dated 11 June 1890 and two sets from Pottawattamie County dated 13 May 1895 (ZM-8907) and 16 June 1895 (ZM-8904).
- Chipping Sparrow** *Spizella passerina* (Bechstein). One egg set from Linn County (ZM-8850) dated 14 June 1890 and one specimen (ZM-16595) from Mills County dated 15 May 1982.
- Field Sparrow** *Spizella pusilla* (Wilson). One egg set each from Franklin County (ZM-8873) dated 25 May 1893 and Linn County (ZM-8874) dated 11 June 1890.
- Vesper Sparrow** *Poocetes gramineus* (Gmelin). One specimen (ZM-9724) from Johnson County dated 12 October 1894 and one specimen (ZM-16601) from Mills County dated 21 April 1992.
- Lark Sparrow** *Chondestes grammacus* (Say). One egg set (ZM-8836) from Franklin County dated 20 May 1896.
- Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia* (Wilson). One specimen (ZM-16599) from Mills County dated 13 April 1990.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** *Melospiza lincolni* (Audubon). One specimen (ZM-16592) from Pottawattamie County dated 20 April 1979.
- Harris's Sparrow** *Zonotrichia querula* (Nuttall). One specimen (ZM-7481) from Woodbury County dated 8 October 1932.
- Dark-eyed Junco** *Junco hyemalis* (Linnaeus). Single specimens from Harrison County (ZM-16558) dated December 1983 and Johnson County (ZM-9698) dated 28 October 1893.
- Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus* (Linnaeus). Seven specimens (ZM-16560, 16994 to 16999) from Fremont County dated 3 December 1985. Single specimens from Mills County (ZM-16591) dated 6 February 1984, Montgomery County (ZM-16590) dated 6 February 1984, and Woodbury County (ZM-7593) dated 4 November 1932.
- Red-winged Blackbird** *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Linnaeus). Six egg sets and four specimens from five counties. Egg sets include three from Franklin County dated 21 June 1894 (ZM-8747), 16 May 1896 (ZM-8745), and 20 May 1896 (ZM-8749). The other egg sets include one from Linn County (ZM-8767) dated 20 June 1890 and two from Pottawattamie County dated 24 June 1894 (ZM-8748) and 26 June 1898 (ZM-8739). Specimens include two from Harrison County dated 21 December 1980 (ZM-16527) and 12 June 1982 (ZM-16525) and two from Mills County dated 5 January 1981 (ZM-16682) and 3 July 1981 (ZM-16526).
- Eastern Meadowlark** *Sturnella magna* (Linnaeus). Three specimens from Mills County dated 10 February 1979 (ZM-16606), 3 July 1980 (ZM-16609), and 25 July 1986 (ZM-16625). One specimen (ZM-16623) from Montgomery County in 1985. Two specimens from Pottawattamie County dated 8 April 1981 (ZM-16610) and 26 April 1982 (ZM-16618).
- Western Meadowlark** *Sturnella neglecta* Audubon. One specimen (ZM-16624) from Fremont County dated 1 July 1986. Six specimens from Mills County (ZM-16607, 16608, 16615, 16617, 16620, 16621) on various dates from 1979 to 1982. One specimen (ZM-16626) from Page County in August 1988. Four specimens from Pottawattamie County (ZM-16611, 16612, 16614, 16616) on various dates in 1981.
- Meadowlark species** *Sturnella* sp. One specimen from Mills County dated 10 February 1979 (ZM-16606) and one from Pottawattamie County dated 8 April 1981 (ZM-16610) are labeled Eastern Meadowlark but both exhibit some Western Meadowlark characteristics. One specimen from Pottawattamie County dated 9 April 1986 (ZM-16619) is labelled a Western Meadowlark but also exhibits characteristics of both species. All three of these birds may be hybrids and until they are studied more carefully, probably should not be assigned to a species.
- Common Grackle** *Quiscalus quiscula* (Linnaeus). Two egg sets from Franklin County dated 25 May 1893 (ZM-8796) and 3 May 1896 (ZM-8798). One albino specimen (ZM-15632) listed only as having come from Iowa in May 1984.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* (Boddaert). One egg (ZM-8704) from Yellow Warbler nest in Franklin County dated 5 June 1893. One egg (ZM-8702) from Scarlet Tanager nest in Linn County dated 11 June 1890. Egg sets from both host species are not in the UNSM collection.

Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* (Linnaeus). One specimen each from Harrison County (ZM-16677) in 1979 and Mills County (ZM-16524) in 1986.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (Linnaeus). One specimen (ZM-16678) from Harrison County in 1979 and two (ZM-16718, 16679) from Pottawattamie County in the early 1980s.

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis* (Linnaeus). One egg set (ZM-8819) from Franklin County dated 4 August 1894.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus). Three egg sets from Franklin County dated 18 June 1894 (ZM-9136), 23 June 1894 (ZM-9139), and 18 May 1896 (ZM-9134). Ten specimens (ZM-16642 to 16646, 16699, 16701 to 16704) from Mills County on various dates from 1978 to 1983. Three specimens (ZM-16697, 16698, 16700) from Pottawattamie County on 13 July 1979.

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SPRING BIRD COUNT--1996

PETER C. PETERSEN

The 1996 spring count was held on 11 May. A total of 12 counties participated, down two from the previous two years (Petersen 1995, 1996). Counties not reporting which had participated last year included Cedar, Dickinson, Plymouth, and Story. Polk County was added and a partial count for a few hours was submitted for Jefferson County. Included are counts made by two groups were found birding in eastern Iowa on count day. No counts were reported for their home counties.

Ten counties reported 100 or more species with Louisa County again leading with 188 (Table 1), all but one species seen by one party. Four other counties had very fine totals (Clinton-169, Scott-168, Fremont-162, and Muscatine-156) which would have led in 1995. Geographically only two corner counties reported, the same as last year. As usual, the strongest coverage was from east-central Iowa with five counties represented, while southeastern Iowa had one, central Iowa one, north-central Iowa one, and northwestern Iowa two. I also compiled the Illinois Spring Bird Count for 1996, and 96 out of 102 counties participated! Many of Iowa's most active birders were not involved.

Table 1. Count statistics for 1996 spring bird count.

County	Species	Obs.	Parties	Foot	Hours			Foot	Miles		Owling
					Car	Feeder	Owling		Car	Owling	
Allamakee	124	3	1	6.5	10	0	1.5	0	146	4	
Cerro Gordo	21	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Clay	132	4	2	3.5	14.5	1.5	0	3	225	0	
Clinton	169	7	4	12	16	0	9	11	368	90	
Fremont	162	4	1	3.5	11.5	0	1.5	2	230	15	
Jefferson	16	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Johnson	106	4	3	15	1	1.5	0	10.5	20	0	
Louisa	188	4	3	7.5	11.5	0	0.5	4	200	6	
Muscatine	156	8	5	6	7	3	1	5	131	6	
Polk	113	2	1	3	8	0	0	0.5	121	0	
Scott	168	18	12	26	27.5	2	2.5	22	367	20	
Woodbury	139	3	1	12	4	0	1	5	120	1	
totals	244	59	35	84	111	10	17	69	1928	142	

The species total was 244, up from 230 last year. Fifty-nine people participated, down from 82 last year and below the 63 of our first year, 1993, when only seven counties were involved. Scott County had an increase in observers with 18 versus 15 last year. Two counties are represented only by brief reports from one person each, and one report (Jefferson) is described by the reporter as a partial list. The other, Cerro Gordo County, did a full coverage count but the full county totals were not submitted. For the purposes of overview in the next paragraph, these two counties will not be considered.

Fifty-one species were reported from the ten counties with full coverage, and an additional 28 species were missed by only one county. On the other side of the coin, 23 species were found in only one county. Louisa with five and Fremont and Woodbury with four had most of the near misses, but nine counties had at least one. Species missed unexpectedly include American Black Duck, Black-bellied and

Table 2a. Spring Bird Count Data, 1996.

COUNTY	Pi		Am		Do		Gr		Li		Bl		Ye		Wh		Gr	
	Co	Bi	Ea	We	Wh	Cr	Am	Le	Bi	Gr	Bl	Ca	Gr	Cr	Cr	Fa	WF	
	Lo	Gr	Gr	Gr	Pe	Co	Bi	Bi	He	Eg	He	Eg	He	NH	NH	Ib	Go	
Allamakee		3			43	62			31	14			3					
Cerro Gordo																		
Clay	1	13	1	1	149	71			3	11			1				69	
Clinton		19			1	450	1	1	27	6		1	4	1				
Fremont		28	18		12	23			15	2		1	3	4				
Jefferson																		
Johnson					60	65			2				2	1				
Louisa	1	16			90	210			35	6	4	1	1		2		4	
Muscaline		7				5			27	7			1					
Polk		3			33	2		1	52	7								
Scott	1	10			2	87			48	13			11					
Woodbury		6	3		6	220			4	3			1			1	1	
No. Individuals	3	105	22	1	396	1,195	1	2	244	69	4	3	27	6	2	1	74	
No. of Counties	3	9	3	1	9	10	1	2	10	9	1	3	9	3	1	1	3	

COUNTY	Sh		Fo		Ca		Wo		Gr		No		Bl		Am		R		Le		Co	
	Go		Go		Go		Du		Te		Ma		Te		Sh		Ga		Wi		Ca	
	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go	Go
Allamakee				26	30	5	15			15	42	13										23
Cerro Gordo																						
Clay	160		480	50	8	50				121	80	118	5		7	4						42
Clinton			137	27	4	36				55	42	60			12	10	14				140	
Fremont			3	8	25	35	1	850	120	60	2	1	1								30	
Jefferson																						
Johnson			25	3		10				1											9	
Louisa			104	53	6	25				179	51	18	6			1	2	39	1			
Muscatine			36	32		27				14	1					1		3				
Polk			39	4	1	19				49	37	2				2		32				
Scott		1	99	48	6	138				148	26	30	1				2	66				
Woodbury	7		34	25	35	25	1	58	20	8			2	1				18	4			
No. Individuals	167	1	983	280	90	380	2	1,489	420	309	14	15	19	22	4	402	5					
No. of Counties	2	1	10	10	8	10	2	9	10	8	4	3	4	5	2	10	2					

COUNTY	Ho		Br		Ru		Tu		Ba		No		Sh		Co		Ac		Re		Br		Re		Am	
	Me		Me		Du		Vu		Os		Ea		Ha		Ha		Sp		Ha		Ha		Ha		Ke	
	Bu	Me	Me	Me	Du	Vu	Os	Ea	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ke	Me
Allamakee	2	5				41	1	9		2	1			1	4							7	2			
Cerro Gordo																										
Clay	2	2			54	18				1	2	1	1		4						4	4				
Clinton	8	4			22	38	1	2	1	3					52						14	9				
Fremont		4	1	21	62		1									1	15				5	2				
Jefferson																										
Johnson					4	8	2			3											5	1				
Louisa		28				15		1	1	1	1			1	8						12	8				
Muscatine		8				12		1		5					3						6	4				
Polk					7		1			1	1										1	5				
Scott					1	24		1		1											4	20	4	1		
Woodbury	1	2	1	18	8					2	1										3	14	2			
No. Individuals	13	53	3	126	226	6	14	3	20	5	1	2	84	15	84	40	1									
No. of Counties	4	7	3	6	9	5	5	3	9	5	1	2	9	1	10	9	1									

Table 2b. Spring Bird Count Data, 1996.

COUNTY	R											Am						R					
	Pe Fa	Gr Pa	Ne Ph	Ru Gr	Wi Tu	No Bo	Vi Pa	So	Co Mo	Am Co	Sa Cr	Go Pl	Pl Pl	Ki	Gr Ye	Le Ye	So Sa						
Allamakee			8	1	13		4	18	1	107	4			8		30							
Cerro Gordo																							
Clay		2	19		4			2		300		25		31	6	15	7						
Clinton	1		19		7		4	10	1	402	2			29	9	69	6						
Fremont	2		30		21			2	1	2,001		18		17	15	130	3						
Jefferson																							
Johnson			2							20				4	2	2							
Louisa	1		32		2	3		15		900	1			36	2	40	20						
Muscatine			6		4	4		2		37				20	6	7	4						
Polk	1		11					3		112				12	3	16	7						
Scott			18		12			10		157				44	35	50	14						
Woodbury			14		2			2		35				8	14	1	6						
No. Individuals	5	2	159	1	65	7	8	64	3	4,071	7	43	8	215	79	365	63						
No. of Counties	4	1	10	1	8	2	2	9	3	10	3	2	1	10	9	10	8						

COUNTY	Wi	Sp	Up	Hu	Ma	Ru	Sa	Se	We	Le	Wh	Ba	Pe	Du	Sl	Bu	Sh
		Sa	Sa	Go	Go	Tu		Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa	Sa		Sa	Br	Bi
Allamakee		4															
Cerro Gordo																	
Clay		13	1	3				14		10			5	4			
Clinton		7						2		39	1	2	3				1
Fremont	32	8	1	9	2			6		37	23		23	3	13	20	54
Jefferson																	
Johnson		1															
Louisa	1	27						6	1	12	1	1	20		2		2
Muscatine		13						12		20		2	15				1
Polk		5						20		20	4		8		1		
Scott	1	10						6		17			50	2			7
Woodbury		8		2		2	6	22	1	12	1		2				8
No. Individuals	34	96	2	14	2	2	6	88	2	167	30	5	126	9	16	20	73
No. of Counties	3	10	2	3	1	1	1	8	2	8	5	3	8	3	3	1	6

COUNTY	R																Ye		Ea	
	Lo Bi	Do	Co	Am	Wi	Fr	Bo	Bi	He	Ca	Co	Fo	Bl	Ro	Mo	Bi	Sc			
	Do	Sp	Sn	Wo	Ph	Gu	Gu	Gu	Gu	Te	Te	Te	Te	Do	Do	Cu	Ow			
Allamakee				4				11		2		2	2	15	10					
Cerro Gordo														6	2					
Clay		2	1		7	96	3	38		1		55	88	26	38					
Clinton				3		1	32	36	2	2	10	10	20	18	108					
Fremont				2	9	2						1	160	16	150					
Jefferson																				
Johnson							2			3					16	2				
Louisa		2	1					40		1	2	1	35	13	87					
Muscatine	2							1		1	8			256	219					
Polk						9		116	1	11	12		6	8	17					
Scott				1	1		3	91		12			2	110	188		2			
Woodbury	1			1	10	25		25		6	3	1	8	58	46		1			
No. Individuals	4	4	2	11	27	133	40	358	3	39	35	70	321	526	881	2	3			
No. of Counties	3	2	2	5	4	5	4	8	2	9	5	6	8	10	11	1	2			

Table 2c. Spring Bird Count Data, 1996.

COUNTY	Gr		Ba	Co	Ch		Wh	Po	Ru		Be	He	Pe	Be	Ye	Do	Ha	No	Fl	Cl	Ea
	Ho	Ow			Wi	Sw			Th	Ki		Wo									
	Ow	Ow			Wi	Sw			Hu	Ki		Wo									
Allamakee			3	2		2	21	4	2	1	7	13	2	1	2	4					1
Cerro Gordo									1				2								
Clay	1					3	2	3	1	3	1		6	3	15						
Clinton			25	7		47	2	4	84	23		14	3	19	1						13
Fremont	5	6	2	1	24	75	1	2	19	8		10	1	3							
Jefferson																					
Johnson			1			15	1	2	3	11		9	4	1							
Louisa	1	3	16	1	1	50	3	2	68	4		9	5	10	4	1					
Muscatine	1	1	25			100	1	4	52	20		30	12	22	1						1
Polk			2			8			5	4		3	1	5							
Scott	4	3	20	1	2	58	7	5	65	32	1	30	5	32	1						9
Woodbury	1	1			6	13	1	3	4	4		6	1	8							
No. Individuals	13	43	74	3	35	390	23	27	302	116	15	121	36	117	11	2					24
No. of Counties	6	8	7	3	5	10	10	9	10	10	3	11	10	10	5	2					4

COUNTY	Ye		Gr											No		Bk	Cl	Bn
	Be	Ac	Al	Wi	Le	Em	Ea	Cr	We	Ea	Ho	Pu	Tr	FW	Sw			
	Fl	Fl	Fl	Fl	Fl	Sp	Ph	Fl	Ki	Ki	La	Ma	Sw	Sw	Sw			
Allamakee							6	1			2	2	9	351	35	1		52
Cerro Gordo																		
Clay					3	1	1				14			83	15	8		51
Clinton					10		5	10		47	15	23	275	155	110	255	268	
Fremont				3	12		7	12	3	26	6	6	410	480	35	200	1,200	
Jefferson																		
Johnson					5	2	15	5		4			15		2	32	16	
Louisa	1			4	32		6	2		50	13	17	650	230	21	45	360	
Muscatine		2	1	3	7		6	20	1	25	3	65	230	17	3	25	55	
Polk					2					16	1	9	113	2	4	1	111	
Scott				27	21		5	20		51	17	41	238	272	25	5	306	
Woodbury				1		4	1		3	6	3	10	20	50	25		50	
No. Individuals	1	2	1	38	92	7	52	70	7	227	74	180	2,385	1,256	234	563	2,469	
No. of Counties	1	1	1	5	8	3	9	7	3	9	9	8	10	9	10	7	10	

COUNTY	Bl	Am	Fi	Ca	Tu	Pe	Wh	Br	Ca	Ho	Wi	Se	Ma	Go	Ru	Bl	Ea
	Ja	Cr	Cr	Ch	Ti	Nu	Nu	Cr	Wr	Wr	Wr	Wr	Wr	Ki	Ki	Gn	Bl
Allamakee	25	31		29	2		9			5				1	14	19	5
Cerro Gordo	2			4			2								2		
Clay	45	34		24		3	1	1	1	3			1		17	2	6
Clinton	108	92		25	19	1	15	1		32		2	9		21	8	26
Fremont	200	45		20	30		8			36		15	9		60	7	
Jefferson	8					1											
Johnson	34	35		36	10		12			35					11	3	4
Louisa	95	38	1	13	5		6			31	1	1	4		38	7	15
Muscatine	82	75		37	10	1	6		2	34		1			19	26	15
Polk	16	27		5			3			11					3	2	7
Scott	170	138		83	14	3	13		4	111		4	4		21	6	16
Woodbury	15	44		6			6			6			1		4	3	2
No. Individuals	800	559	1	282	90	9	81	2	7	304	1	23	28	1	210	83	96
No. of Counties	12	10	1	11	7	5	11	2	3	10	1	5	6	1	11	10	9

Table 2d. Spring Bird Count Data, 1996.

COUNTY	Gr										Wh					Ye			
	Ve	Ch	Sw	He	Wo	Am	Gr	No	Br	Am	Ce	Lo	Eu	Ey	Be	So	Th		
		Th	Th	Th	Th	Fb	Ca	Mo	Th	Fl	Wa	Sh	St	Vi	Vi	Vi	Vi		
Allamakee		3	3		3	210	4		6				41						
Cerro Gordo					1		1		2				10						
Clay	5	18	26			65			11				140			1			
Clinton	4	16	58	1	6	220	41		17				412			4	7		
Fremont	1	1	78		14	111	31		54		30	3	62		1	13	3		
Jefferson		1	1		1		3		2										
Johnson	4	2	28		1	27	54		14				39			18	3		
Louisa	23	54	111	1	2	136	68	1	35	1	6	1	215	1	2	3	8		
Muscatine	4	6	84	1	9	157	45	2	23	1	1		323		2	4	16		
Polk		1	17	1		167	11		13		1		52				1		
Scott	16	14	195	2	12	324	139		74		12		331		1	8	6		
Woodbury		2	25			110	2		16				22			1			
No. Individuals	57	118	626	6	49	1,527	399	3	267	2	50	4	1,647	1	6	52	44		
No. of Counties	7	11	11	5	9	10	11	2	12	2	5	2	11	1	4	8	7		

COUNTY	Pe										Ch										Ye	
	Wa	Vi	Pe	Wi	Te	Cr	Na	No	Ye	Si	Ma	Ca	BT	Ye	BT	Ye						
Allamakee					1	3	5		7		2	10		285	4	2						
Cerro Gordo																						
Clay				1		6	1							73	2							
Clinton	4		1	3	5	20	7	33	9	12	5	1	228	22	10							
Fremont	12					35	7	2	21	1	1		333	1								
Jefferson																						
Johnson	2	2		3	3	2	18	3	16	4	7	1	100	14	4	1						
Louisa	12	2	1	2	10	4	28	3	49	3	3	15	465	10	5							
Muscatine	6	12	1	4	1	13	12	4	6	18	8	5	1	326	17	7						
Polk					1	6	1		4				139									
Scott	3		8	4	14	23	2	76	22	38	6	1	338	22	21	1						
Woodbury	2				1	3		2					44	2								
No. Individuals	41	16	11	17	36	72	115	21	214	57	71	42	3	2,331	94	49	2					
No. of Counties	7	3	4	6	8	8	9	6	9	6	7	6	3	10	9	6	2					

COUNTY	Ba										Wo										Ye	
	Pr	Pr	Pa	Br	Bl	Ce	Wh	Am	Pr	Ea	No	Lo	Ke	Co	Mo	Co						
Allamakee			4	1			24	34	3		6	18				3						
Cerro Gordo											2											
Clay			14		2		9				2	7										
Clinton	1		199	1	2		24	41			21	45	2	1		34						
Fremont					4		22	3			16	11	1		1	38						
Jefferson							2									4						
Johnson		2	27	3	3	1	27	8			40	10				15						
Louisa	2		157		8	2	5	43	4	1	13	25	1	3	2	83						
Muscatine			212	2		1	16	42	1		78	8	3	4		29						
Polk			11				8				1	15				3						
Scott		1	182			1	74	57	4		106	56	3		2	84						
Woodbury			6		2		6	4			5	6				4						
No. Individuals	3	3	812	7	21	5	217	232	12	1	290	201	10	8	4	297						
No. of Counties	2	2	9	4	6	4	11	8	4	1	11	10	5	3	2	3	10					

Table 2e. Spring Bird Count Data, 1996.

COUNTY	Ho	Wi	Ca	Su	Sc	No	Po	Bl	In	Or	Ea	Ch	Cl	Fi	Ve	La	Sa
	Wa	Wa	Wa	Ta	Ta	Ca	Gr	Gr	Bu		To	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp
Allamakee				1		25	12				3	19		13	1		2
Cerro Gordo						2			1			1					
Clay						4	3					15					2
Clinton		6			4	83	35		15	17	6	84	3	35	1		8
Fremont	1			1		56	4	1	2	452	6	410	57	4	2	3	18
Jefferson					1		48		1				1				
Johnson		5			1	48	4		2		3	5		16			
Louisa	1	6		1	4	58	84		63	51	5	83	6	24	10	4	12
Muscatine	1	2	1		5	66	34		91	27	20	72	1	32	14	1	2
Polk						15	2			1		9	5	2	7		4
Scott		6			1	195	92		15	7	15	116	2	50	6	2	3
Woodbury		1				11	2				8	12		24		2	5
No. Individuals	2	27	1	3	16	563	320	1	190	555	66	826	75	210	43	12	56
No. of Counties	2	7	1	3	6	11	11	1	8	6	8	11	7	10	8	5	9

COUNTY	Gr	Fo	So	Li	Sw	Wh	Wh	Ha	Bo	Re	Ea	We	Ye	Ru	Br	Gr	Co
	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Sp	Th	Cr			Wi		Me	He		Bl	Ta	Gr
Allamakee			23		12	9			8	411	4	1	40				80
Cerro Gordo																	6
Clay			16	1	7	61	9	6	9	203	4		260			3	118
Clinton	1		43	1	62	188	22	1	26	1,356	23	7	75	2			604
Fremont	2		9	26	1	8	16	12	30	650	7	56	77			2	17
Jefferson				1	1	240											
Johnson			10		17	47	3			53	1						16
Louisa	12		31	4	13	377	68	3	46	555	25	6			1		240
Muscatine	7		45		3	473	46	6	6	295	27	10					241
Polk			16	2		17	2	8	22	337	5	6	5				195
Scott	4	3	77	4	24	377	66	8	45	490	45	11					291
Woodbury			8			11	15	8	40	125	4	4	19		40	3	95
No. Individuals	26	3	278	39	140	1,808	247	52	232	4,475	145	101	476	2	41	8	1,903
No. of Counties	5	1	10	7	9	11	9	8	9	10	10	8	6	1	2	3	11

COUNTY	Br	He	Or	Ba	Pu	no	Pi	Am	Ho	Eu
	He			Or	Fi	Fi	St	Go	So	Tr
Allamakee	15			3	1	12	1	15	110	
Cerro Gordo	4				4	8		4		
Clay	28				1	19	3	21	165	
Clinton	108	3	29	20	26	20	111	199		
Fremont	240	4	28		4		25	15		
Jefferson										
Johnson	9			21			19	45		
Louisa	200	1	50	6	31	2	117	160	1	
Muscatine	65	2	44	3	17		44	446	10	
Polk	411			2	4	2	8	16		
Scott	136	3	34	14	64	10	211	346		
Woodbury	15			3	5		14	5		
No. Individuals	1,231	13	214	49	190	38	589	1,507	11	
No. of Counties	11	5	9	7	10	6	11	10	2	

Semipalmated Plover, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Philadelphia Vireo. Shorebirds were back to 27 species, up from 24 in 1995. Unexpected species or species totals included a stray Ross's Goose in Scott County, 15 Swainson's Hawks in Fremont County, 20 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Fremont County, Alder Flycatcher in Muscatine County, Western Kingbird in Muscatine County, Fish Crow in Louisa County, Prairie Warblers in Johnson and Scott counties, Fox Sparrows in Scott County, Rusty Blackbirds in Clinton County, and Brewer's Blackbirds in Louisa and Woodbury counties. The totals for some common species were very low; only seven Northern Bobwhite in two counties, only 13 Great Horned Owls were found as well as three Eastern Screech-Owls in two counties with 17 hours spent "owling", and three Northern Mockingbirds in two counties. More than 1,000 individuals were found for 14 species. The highest count was for Red-winged Blackbird at 4,475. Several reports of unusual species or late dates were undocumented and deleted. This count is part of a nation-wide effort, like the Christmas Bird Counts, and could provide much more useful data if more than ten percent of our counties contributed a thorough count.

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235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

The January 1947 issue's lead article featured the Sprague's Pipit. Written by Sioux City birder William Youngworth and based on observations made in North Dakota, the article provides some interesting information about this grassland. Another article is a short biography of David L. Savage, a naturalist and botanist from Henry County. Savage was the editor of one of Iowa's pioneer bird journals, *The Iowa Ornithologist*, during its short lifespan from 1894 to 1898. During much of his life, Savage was better known as a field botanist and amassed a huge collection of plants from throughout Iowa. A short article by James Hodges describes his experiences of birding by bicycle, a fad that has become popular again. Finally, a summary of the 1946 Christmas Bird Count shows that 74 species were found on the 15 counts held in Iowa. Des Moines with 50 species was the top count, and 11 of the 15 counts had totals in the twenties, a far cry from the totals we have presently.--ed.

BIRDING DUNBAR SLOUGH WILDLIFE AREA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

Located in Greene County, Dunbar Slough is one of the premier marshes in central Iowa. It is located 4 miles south and 3 miles west of Scranton in Greene County. The area totals 1,369 acres: two thirds are comprised of wetlands and the remaining one third includes a variety of upland habitats, mostly grasslands. The best time to visit the area is in spring from mid-March to early June. Summer birding varies depending on the amount of water. Fall is less productive, but still worth a visit. Winter birding is slow, although Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike have been seen. More than 215 species of birds have been seen in the area including Snowy Plover, American Avocet, Red-necked Phalarope, Common Tern, and Bell's Vireo.



Begin at the boat ramp at the south end of the area (1). To the north is the largest pool of open water, although during dry years this may become choked with vegetation. Almost all of the waterfowl, often including good numbers of Snow and Greater White-fronted geese, congregate here in March and April. A few Bald Eagles may also be seen, especially during the March thaw. In April, look for Horned and Eared grebes and American White Pelican, the latter often occurring by the hundreds. By mid-May, many of the breeding species have arrived: Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Great-tailed Grackle. Virginia Rail and Common Moorhen may also breed here occasionally. During fall, there are often more duck hunters than birders. From the boat ramp, follow the lane west to the dam at the southwestern end of the marsh (2). Note: this road is often closed in fall and winter. The trees along the lane can be excellent for migrant thrushes, vireos, warblers, and sparrows, including Clay-colored, in May and September. A few Willow Flycatchers are often here in summer. Return to B Avenue and follow it south to 270th Street. Loggerhead Shrike has nested along this road several times. Follow 270th Street west to the future nature center site (3). The impoundment to the west is a waterfowl refuge (no access from 10 September to 25 December). Thousands of waterfowl, mostly puddle ducks and geese, use the area in spring. The water inflow at the southeastern end of the impoundment is good for Common Snipe and Rusty Blackbird in April. If water levels are low in spring or fall, look for shorebirds along the edges of this area. To the west of A Avenue, opposite the impoundment (in Carroll County), there are often several flooded fields in spring and sometimes in fall (4). Hundreds of shorebirds have been seen here representing all of the common species plus Black-bellied Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, and Wilson's Phalarope.

Continue north on A Avenue and turn right (east) on 250th Street. Continue east to where the road bisects the marsh (5). The area to the south is usually cattail-choked and has few birds. To the north is a nice mix of open water and cattail beds. Waterfowl are abundant in March and April. Yellow-headed Blackbird and Great-tailed Grackle often nest here. For closer views, hike north along either shoreline. In April and May, this is a good place to flush American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, and Sora, and sometimes a Le Conte's Sparrow. Return to A Avenue and turn right (north). Continue 1 mile and turn right (east) on 240th Street. Proceed 0.8 miles to the north end of the marsh (6). A short distance to the south is the upper

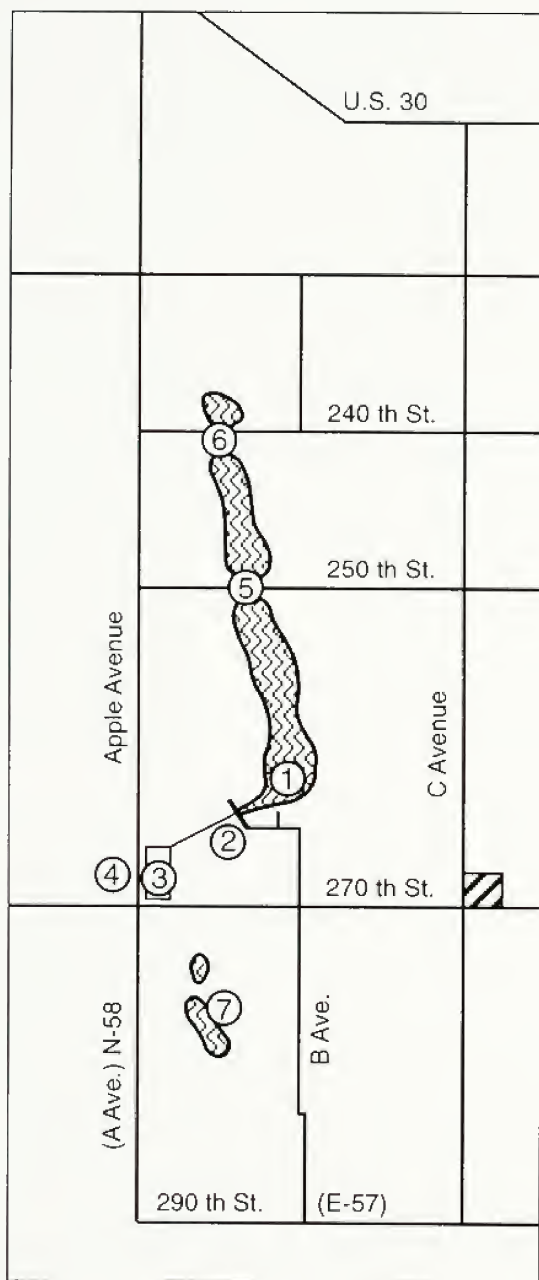
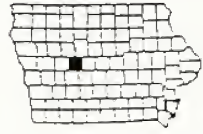


Figure 1. Map of Dunbar Slough area. Circled numbers refer to numbered areas described in the text.

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end of the marsh and open water. The dead trees along the west shore often have roosting Double-crested Cormorants and Black-crowned Night-Herons in April and May and sometimes in September. American Bittern, Virginia Rail, and Sora are often flushed from the intervening marsh in May and September. The small marsh north of the road is sometimes full of teal in April. The area is also good for herons, including Cattle Egret, in April and May. In May, the short-grass fringes of the marsh sometimes host many shorebirds, often including American Golden-Plover.

A nearby area of interest is known as the Garst Ponds, a private wetland owned by Steve Garst of Garst Seeds (7). This area is NOT open to the public and can be viewed ONLY from surrounding public roads. The best views are from B Avenue about 0.7 miles south of 270th Street, and from A Avenue about 0.3 miles south of 270th Street. Both ponds are excellent for migrant waterfowl in March and April. This is one of the best places in central Iowa to see large numbers of Snow Geese, especially in late March. Concentrations of 20,000 or more have been seen here in recent years. Large numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese and a few Ross's Geese may also be seen at this time. The short-grass pasture surrounding the ponds is excellent for breeding Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink. Other birds of interest that have been seen here include Tundra Swan, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, and Great-tailed Grackle. The Iowa DNR has recently purchased a large tract of land just south of the Garst ponds. Other acquisitions in the area are anticipated.

Finally, note that much of southwestern Greene County is comprised of rolling hills and large areas of pasture. A few Gray Partridge still reside here and may be seen any time of the year. In April, watch for migrant Swainson's Hawks: I still think this area looks good for them to occasionally breed. Upland Sandpiper and Loggerhead Shrike breed regularly and are best seen from April to June. Other breeding birds include Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows and Bobolink.

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014

FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1996

THOMAS H. KENT

WEATHER

August was slightly cooler than normal with normal rainfall. September was cooler than normal with below-normal precipitation. October had very normal weather until the last few days, when a storm, which lasted into the first of November, brought birds south. The last half of November was cold, with only five days above normal, and was wetter than normal except in southeastern Iowa.

GENERAL TRENDS

The influx of Red Crossbills that began in July continued into August, but diminished after that. Although there were rumors that birds of the coniferous forests of the western mountains were on the move in search of food, it was not until the last day of November that a second such species was found in Iowa--a Pinyon Jay graciously hosted by Gaylan and Lloyd Crim at their feeders.

The early passerine migration was not spectacular with no raving comments about warbler fallouts. Shorebird migration was also less than spectacular with habitat conditions below average; never-the-less, a number of rare shorebirds were found and some unusual dates established.

Gulls presented themselves in the now-expected varieties and were joined by an unprecedented number of Pomarine Jaegers. Grebes were abundant and widespread, but loons were not. Waubesa Wildlife Area in the southwestern corner of the state has become the heron center of Iowa. All species of herons were there in large numbers. Least Bitterns at scattered locations were unusually numerous for fall. Waterfowl reports might be considered average at best--perhaps waterfowl and loons moved through more rapidly than usual. There was, however, a spectacular flight of waterfowl in western Iowa on 30-31 October.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported included Brown Pelican, Great Cormorant, Anhinga, Gyrfalcon, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Jaeger species, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Mew Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, and Pinyon Jay. Casual species included Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Red Knot, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, California Gull, and Sabine's Gull. There were also a number of birds seen at unusual dates. I was more conservative than usual in evaluating records and referred many to the Records Committee.

Rare regular species of note included Trumpeter Swan, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Snowy Owl, Blue Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, Henslow's Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Great-tailed Grackle is no longer unusual, and



Eurasian Tree Sparrow appears to be established in four counties along the lower Mississippi River.

SPECIES DATA

(* = documented; [] = record date)

Red-throated Loon: 1 in first-basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (*SJD).

Pacific Loon: Birds in basic plumage were reported from Rathbun Res. on 11 Oct (*RLC)[record earliest], from Saylorville Res. on 5 Nov (SJD-details), and from Red Rock Res. on 3, 7 and 18 Nov (*AMJ, *THK, *JLF, *CE).

Common Loon: First: 2 were at Spirit L. on 7 Aug (DHe, HZ). The next was at Pleasant Creek L. on 20 Sep (MCK). High count: 12 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Several contributors noted that there were fewer than usual.

Pied-billed Grebe: High count: 534 on 11 Sep at L. Manawa (SJD). Two broods were at Harrier M. in Boone Co. on 26 Aug (JD).

Horned Grebe: First: 23 Sep at Cedar L. (SJD). Last: 27 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). High count: 36 on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from 18 locations with more than 10 birds at 4 locations, which is more than usual.

Red-necked Grebe: All: 1 on 30 Oct at Black Hawk L. (PE).

Red Grebe: First: 21 Aug at East Okoboji (ETH). Last: 24 Nov at Terra L. (SJD). High count: 4 on 9 Oct at Little Wall L. (SJD). There were reports from 14 locations with 3 in the eastern half of the state.

Western Grebe: First: 2 Sep at Trumbull L. (LAS). Last: 3 on 22 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AB). From 1 to 3 were seen at 15 locations with most in the zone from Spirit L. to Red Rock Res.; however, 1 was at Lock and Dam 18 in Des Moines Co. on 14 Nov (JLF) and a few were in Pottawattamie Co. in southwestern Iowa.

American White Pelican: Last: 30 Nov at Saylorville Res. (Scott Rolfes fide SJD). High count: 4,700 at Runnells A. on 5 Sep (SJD). Large flocks were seen from mid-August to early October all across the state.

Brown Pelican: An immature bird found by Chuck Fuller spent several days at Lock and Dam 18 in Des Moines Co. and was documented on 4 Nov (*JLF).

Great Cormorant: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Double-crested Cormorant: High counts: 2,000 on 29 Sep at Clinton (PCP), 2,500 on 2 Oct at Coralville Res. (CE), and 2,100 on 27 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Anhinga: A report will be referred to the Records Committee

American Bittern: All: 29 Aug at Davenport (PCP) and 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Least Bittern: All: 8 Aug at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (JLF), 13 Aug at Forney L. (SJD) with 3 there on 5 Sep (AMJ), 5 Sep at Otter Creek M. (DLD), and 7 Sep at North Ridge P. in Coralville (CE). This is more than is usually reported in the fall.

Great Blue Heron: High count: 556 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

Great Egret: Last: 31 Oct in Clay Co. (RR). High counts: 280 on 12 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD) and 96 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

Snowy Egret: All: birds were at Waubonsie W.A. from 10 Aug to 25 Sep (LAS, BKP/LJP) with a maximum of 5 birds on 12 Aug (SJD); 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 13 Aug (SJD); and in Lee Co. on 29 Aug, 2 were at Heron Bend and 3 were at Fort Madison (SJD).

Little Blue Heron: All: birds were at Waubonsie W.A. from 3 Aug to 25 Sep (PHA/RIA, BKP/LJP) with a maximum of 38 (17 adults, 12 calico, 9 white) on 12 Aug (SJD); 12 (9 adults, 3 calico) were at nearby Sheldon Basin on 3 Aug (PHA/RIA); birds were at Heron Bend from 22 Aug (SJD) to 1 Sep (CE), with 18 birds on the later date; and 3 were at Cone M. on 5 Sep (JLF).

Cattle Egret: Last: 27 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 708 on 9 Sep at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD). There were reports of 1 to 19 birds at 6 other locations.

Green Heron: Last: 1 adult on 6 Oct at South Twin L. (SJD).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Last: 7 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 29 on 11 Sep at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP). From 1 to 7 were reported at 3 other locations.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: birds were at Waubonsie W.A. from 10 Aug to 11 Sep (LAS, BKP/LJP) with a maximum of 10 (6 adults, 4 immatures) on 12 Aug (SJD).

Ibis species: All: 1 was noted in the egret roost at Waubonsie W.A. on 11 Sep (BKP/LJP).

Tundra Swan: Family groups of 5, perhaps the same, were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Oct (MCK) and Christopherson Sl. on 30 Oct (SJD). By 10 Nov, 14 were at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Details were given for an immature at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SJD) and 2 adults at

- Ponderosa L. in Poweshiek Co. on 30 Nov (SJD). At the usual location on Pool 9 in Allamakee Co., 250 were noted on 10 Nov (JLF).
- Trumpeter Swan:** All: 3 untagged birds were in Cerro Gordo Co. from 30 Oct to 2 Nov (CJF, MPr); 7 adults with neck bands were at West Okoboji on 17 Nov (SJD); an injured adult with neck band from Union Slough N.W.R. was in Dallas Co. on 19 Nov (SJD); an adult with green neck collar was with an immature at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SJD); and 3 returned to Black Hawk L. on 25 Nov (Mike Mahn fide PE).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** First: 1 at Port Neal on 10 Aug (BFH). High count: 150 at Hitchcock N.A. on 28 Oct (BKP/LJP).
- Snow Goose:** One that summered at Harrier M. in Boone Co. remained to 26 Aug (JJD). High count: 610,000 on 12 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. on 20 Nov (refuge personnel).
- Ross's Goose:** First: 7 at Barringer Sl. in Clay Co. on 1 Nov (SJD). From 1 to 4 were seen at 8 other western Iowa locations with the most easterly at Terra L. in Polk Co. on 28 Nov (PJW, *JTG).
- Canada Goose:** Large flights were noted in central Iowa on 23 and 24 Nov (JJD, SJD).
- Wood Duck:** High count: 68 on 27 Aug at Sweet M. (RLC).
- Green-winged Teal:** High count: 300 on 16 Oct at L. Macbride (THK).
- American Black Duck:** First: 9 Nov in Polk Co. (SJD). High count: 11 on 28 Nov at Dubuque (PE).
- Northern Pintail:** First: 7 on 17 Aug at Tomahawk M. (PE).
- Blue-winged Teal:** Last: 28 Nov at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. (SJD).
- Northern Shoveler:** High count: 1,000 on 7 Nov at East Okoboji (RTH).
- Canvasback:** A male was at Pool 19 on 29 Aug (SJD), and 3,000 were there on 23 Nov (THK).
- Redhead:** High count: 450 on 30 Oct at West Okoboji (SJD).
- Greater Scaup:** First: a female on 30 Oct at Christopherson Sl. (SJD). There were reports of 1 to 10 birds at 10 locations.
- Lesser Scaup:** High count: 4,500 on 30 Oct at West Okoboji (SJD).
- Oldsquaw:** First: 31 Oct at Lost Island L. (SJD). High count: 9 on 13 Nov at L. Macbride (THK). From 1 to 4 were reported at 5 other locations.
- Black Scoter:** All: 1 male on 4 Nov at Lock and Dam 18 (JLF) and 1 female/immature there on 9 Nov (THK). The only other reports involved 1 female/immature at Saylorville Res. on 16 and 22 Nov (SJD).
- Surf Scoter:** All: 1 on 15, 20 Oct at Spirit L. (DHe, ETh) and 2 shot by Dan Hrubes on 19 Oct at Ventura M. (photos, fide JJD).
- White-winged Scoter:** First: 2 on 24 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF). At 4 other locations, 1 or 2 were noted.
- Common Goldeneye:** First: 31 Oct at Morse L. in Wright Co. (THK, JLF).
- Bufflehead:** High count: 200 at Spirit L. on 11 Nov (LAS).
- Hooded Merganser:** High count: 131 on 16 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).
- Common Merganser:** First: 3 on 1 Nov at Pine L. (MPr). High count: 13,000 on 27 Nov at Red Rock Res. (SJD).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** High count: 257 on 16 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).
- Ruddy Duck:** High count: 793 on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).
- Turkey Vulture:** Last: 1 immature, injured on 9 Nov at Snake Creek M. (JJD). High count: 150 on 30 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).
- Osprey:** First: 14 Sep at Saylorville Res. (PJW). Last: 20 Oct at Saylorville Res. (PJW).
- Mississippi Kite:** All: 1 adult at Des Moines on 17, 27-30 Aug and 2 Sep and 1 immature on 13 Sep (PJW)[ties 3rd latest].
- Bald Eagle:** High count: 62 (21 adult, 41 immature) on 24 Nov along the Des Moines R. in Dallas Co. (SJD).
- Northern Harrier:** High count: 9 on 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** First: 8 Aug in Lyon Co. (DCH). High counts: 65 and 57 on 30 Sep and 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).
- Cooper's Hawk:** First: 12 Aug at Waubonsie W.A. (SJD). High count: 10 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (SJD).
- Northern Goshawk:** All: 1 immature on 29 Sep at Algona (MCK-details), 1 immature found dead on 6 Oct in Des Moines by Carol Henderson (PJW-specimen to Iowa State Univ.), 1 adult on 24 Nov at West Okoboji (LAS-details).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** 12 birds were reported from 21 Aug to 26 Nov from Benton, Guthrie, Jasper, Polk, Marion, and Marshall counties, with 7 of the birds from the hawk watch at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr, MPr, SJD, PCP).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** First: 28 Aug at Des Moines (PJW). High count: 63 at Grammer Grove W.A. on 15 Sep (BPr).

Swainson's Hawk: All: 1 to 3 at Mason City from 18 Aug to 7 Sep (CJF, PHA/RIA); 21 and 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP); 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr), 2 Oct at Cedar Falls (SJD), and 25 Oct in Dickinson Co. (DCH).

Red-tailed Hawk: High counts: 76 on 7 Oct, 70 on 24 Oct, and 97 on 27 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr). There were reports of 4 Krider's and 3 Harlan's hawks.

Rough-legged Hawk: First: 25 Oct in Clay Co. (LAS).

Golden Eagle: All: 3 on 2 Oct, 1 on 19 Oct, and 1 on 2 Nov at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr), 1 immature on 28 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (refuge personnel fide MCK), 1 immature on 2 Nov at Barringer Sl. (SJD), and 1 adult on 24 Nov in northeastern Dallas Co. (SJD).

Merlin: First: 26 Aug at Dewey's Pasture (LAS). There were 26 other birds reported from 9 Sep to 17 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: First: 1 immature on 29 Aug at Runnells A. was probably from Des Moines (SJD). There were 12 others reported from 21 Sep to 12 Oct.

Gyr Falcon: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Prairie Falcon: An immature female was discovered roosting on the Mid-America Energy building in Davenport on 31 Oct (PCP-details) and was seen on 1 and 2 Nov (JLF, CE).

Gray Partridge: Reports were from Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Marshall, and Polk counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Yellow Rail: All: 1 on 19 Sep at Snake Creek M. (JLF).

Virginia Rail: All: 2 on 11 Aug at Silver L. in Worth Co. (RGo) and singles on 5 Sep at Ventura M. and Zirbel Sl. (RGo).

Sora: Last: 2 on 6 Oct at Gordon's M. in Hamilton Co. (SJD).

Common Moorhen: All: 5 on 8 Aug at Green Island W.A. (JLF); 2 adults and 2 young and 2 adults building nest on 8 Aug at Silver L. in Dickinson Co. (HZ) and 1 near there on 11 Sep (LAS) and 24 Sep (DCH); and from 3 to 7 including juveniles at Blue L. from 10 Aug to 22 Sep (BFH, RR, SJD).

American Coot: High count: 25,000 on 21 Oct at Spirit L. (ETH). There was no shortage of this species at other locations either.

Sandhill Crane: All: On 31 Oct, 152 at Barringer Sl. in Clay Co. (SJD) and 30 at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. (Mike Mahn fide PE). Such large flocks are unusual in Iowa.

Black-bellied Plover: First: 8 on 13 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF). Last: 2 on 9 Nov at Amana L. (CE). High count: 9 on 29 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

American Golden-Plover: First: 1 on 14 Aug near Mason City (RGo). Last: 1 on 2 Nov at Barringer Sl. (SJD). High count: 47 on 6 Oct east of Glidden in Carroll Co. (SJD). Birds were reported from 10 other locations.

Semipalmated Plover: Last: on 6 Oct near Glidden (SJD) and at Port Neal (RR). High count: 25 on 7 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Piping Plover: At breeding locations, 2 juveniles were at Port Neal on 4 Aug (BFH) and 2 adults and 1 juvenile were at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 22 Aug (BKP/LJP). An immature was at Waubonsie W.A. on 12 Aug (SJD). Single migrants were at Saylorville Res. on 21 Aug (SJD) and DU Marsh in Clay Co. on 24 Sep (LAS)[record latest].

Killdeer: High count: 535 on 5 Sep at Maskunkya M. in Mahaska Co. (SJD).

American Avocet: Last: 2 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC). High counts: 13 on 22 Sep at Port Neal (RR) and 14 on 27 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from 4 other locations.

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 3 on 12 Nov at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP).

Lesser Yellowlegs: High count: 110 on 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Solitary Sandpiper: Last: 10 Oct at Diamond L. (MPr). High count: 13 on 21 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Willet: All: 1 on 22 Aug at State Line M. (DHe) and 2 on 25 Sep at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP).

Spotted Sandpiper: Last: 27 Nov at Little River R.A. in Decatur Co. (*SJD-photo)[record latest except for 1 winter record].

Upland Sandpiper: High counts and last: 30 at 7 Cities Sod Farm in Scott Co. on 27 Aug and 6 Sep (PCP).

Hudsonian Godwit: All: 5 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details) and 26 Oct at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (*SJD-photo, JJD)[2nd latest].

Marbled Godwit: All: 22 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK-details).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 4 on 8 Sep at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 1 on 11 Sep at Christopherson Sl. (DHe), and 1 on 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Red Knot: 1 basic and 1 molting to basic were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 25 Aug (*MCK).

Sanderling: First: 10 Aug in Hardin Co. (JSi). Last: 16 Nov at Rathbun Res. (TNJ-details)[record latest]. High count: 36 on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Western Sandpiper: Adults with some retained alternate plumage were noted at Waubonsie W.A. on 13 Aug and at Saylorville Res. on 21 Aug and 4 Sep (SJD), and a juvenile was at Saylorville Res. on 5 Sep (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: Last: 3 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD). High count: 432 on 21 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Baird's Sandpiper: Last: 12 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi). High count: 30 on 7 Aug at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP). From 1 to 4 were reported at 6 other locations across the state.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 9 Nov at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). High count: 785 on 21 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Dunlin: First: 5 on 16 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 1 on 10 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 43 on 27 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: 1 injured bird on 26 Oct at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD-details)[2nd latest]. High count: 162 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (SJD).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 3 on 4 Aug at Port Neal (BFH). Last: 10 on 20 Sep at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). High count: 41 on 5 Sep at Runnells A. (SJD). There were reports from 15 locations across the state, a very good showing for this species.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Last: 1 juvenile on 11 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 16 on 17 Aug at Runnells A. (RLC). Very few were reported.

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 9 on 22 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Last: 1 on 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD). High count: 21 on 19 Oct at Tomahawk M. (PE). Very few were reported.

Common Snipe: High count: 40 on 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD).

American Woodcock: All: 12 Oct in Monroe Co. (SJD).

Wilson's Phalarope: Last: 20 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (*MCK)[record latest by over 3 weeks]. Only 2 others were reported.

Red-necked Phalarope: First: 7 Aug at Coralville Res. (JLF)[3rd earliest]. Last: 27 Sep at Hubbard in Hardin Co. (MPR). There were reports of 1 to 3 from 8 other locations, including photos of 1 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Aug (RIA, PHA, see cover).

Red Phalarope: All: 1 in basic plumage on 13, 14 Oct at Saylorville Res. found by Jane Clark (*JLF, PHA/RIA*-photos, *SJD, *CE) and 1 basic on 3 Nov at Spirit L. (ETH*-photos, *LAS)[3rd latest]. Another report will be referred to the Records Committee.



*Red Phalarope. Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co.,
3 Nov 1996. Photo by Ed Thelen*

Jaeger species: An immature bird, probably a Pomarine Jaeger, was at Spirit L. on 17 Nov (*SJD).

Pomarine Jaeger: Iowa was part of an unusual Midwestern invasion of this species. At Saylorville Res., 1 intermediate phase juvenile from 10 to 22 Nov was joined by a dark-phase bird (possibly a subadult) from 11 to 16 Nov and by a second intermediate phase juvenile on 22 Nov (*SJD-photos, JJD). At Red Rock Res., dark and intermediate phase juveniles were present on 16 Nov and these were present with a subadult on 30 Nov (*SJD). These jaegers were seen at Red Rock Res. by many observers through the end of the period (*JLF, *THK, *CE, *RLC).

Laughing Gull: A juvenile was at Runnells A. in Marion Co. on 17 Aug (*SJD, *RLC), and another, possibly the same bird, was at Red Rock Res. on 5 Sep (SJD-photo).

Franklin's Gull: High counts: 33,500 on 30 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and 15,000 on 24 Sep at Trumbull L. (LAS). Individuals in basic plumage lingered at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 21 Nov (THK) and at Red Rock Res. on 30 Nov (SJD).

Black-headed Gull: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Bonaparte's Gull: Last: 28 Oct at Dubuque (PE). High count: 2,000 on 2 Oct at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

Mew Gull: An adult in basic plumage was at Saylorville Res. on 29 Nov (*SJD).

Ring-billed Gull: High count: 40,000 were counted as they came in to roost at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (SJD).

California Gull: 2 reports are referred to the Records Committee.

Herring Gull: High count: 3,000 at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (SJD).

Thayer's Gull: There were reports of 17 birds from 7 locations, making it likely that some birds were reported more than once. Three birds were early (third earliest or earlier) but are not cited because of lacking or insufficient details.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A bird in first-basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. on 27 Nov (*SJD).

Glaucous Gull: All: 1 on 23 Nov and 2 on 24 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD, JJD) and 1 on 30 Nov at Red Rock Res. (SJD). All were first-year birds.

Great Black-backed Gull: An adult was at Lock 13 in Clinton Co. on 29 Sep (*PCP)[2nd earliest].

Black-legged Kittiwake: All (both first-basic): 1 at Coralville Res. on 24 Nov found by Ken Lowder was also seen on 25 Nov (*CE, THK-details) and 1 at Red Rock Res. on 30 Nov (*SJD).

Sabine's Gull: All: 1 juvenile on 2 Oct at Spirit L. (ETH-photo), 1 juvenile on 6 Oct at Black Hawk L. (*PE), and 1 adult on 24 Oct at Red Rock Res. (*JLF).

Caspian Tern: First: 2 on 18 Aug at Saylorville Res. (PJW). Last: 1 on 17 Oct at Smith's L. in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: 32 on 19 Sep in Boone Co. (SJD, JJD).

Common Tern: None were reported.

Forster's Tern: Last: 1 immature on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD)[3rd latest]. High count: 31 on 13 Aug at Riverton A. (SJD).

Least Tern: At the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co., there were 2 adults and 3 young on 2 Aug, 8 adults and 2 young on 13 Aug, and 1 bird on 22 Aug (BKP/LJP). On 10 Aug, 1 bird was at Port Neal (BFH) and on 13 Aug, 1 juvenile was at Riverton A. (SJD).

Black Tern: Last: 2 on 29 Sep at Dan Green Sl. (LAS). High count: 175 on 22 Aug at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (SJD).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last: 9 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last: 30 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Snowy Owl: All: 1 at Davenport on 15 Nov (PCP) and 1 to 3 at Coralville Res. from 19 to 30 Nov (JLF, m. obs.).

Short-eared Owl: All (singles): 13 Oct at Cayler Prairie (RR), 27 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC), 31 Oct at Barringer Sl. (SJD), 2 Nov near Spencer (LAS), and 22 Nov in Emmet Co. (DHe).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 hit a window and survived at Marshalltown on 15 Nov (Betty Savage fide MPr).

Common Nighthawk: Last: 9 Oct at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 110 on 22 Sep at Cedar Rapids (DLD).

Chimney Swift: Last: 3 on 13 Oct at Ames (PM). High count: 5,050 counted as they entered a chimney on 17 Sep at Fairfield (DCP). On 10 Oct, there were 1,000 at Fairfield, but none were there the next evening (DCP).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last: 8 Oct at Ames (Jeanne Edwards fide SJD).

Rufous Hummingbird: A male was seen at a feeder on the north side of Spirit L. on 21, 22, and 23 Aug (ETH-photo, *LAS, *JLF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: An immature was south of Bellevue in Jackson Co. on 6 Aug (PCP).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 7 Aug at Hale's Sl. in Dickinson Co. (DHe). Last: 6 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 4 on 4 Sep at Big M. (MPr).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Last: 1 Oct at Sweet M. (SJD). High count: 15 on 29 Aug in Guthrie Co. (RLC). Another October bird was reported without details.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 15 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 11 Sep at Liscomb (MPr). High count: 6 on 23 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). There were 5 other reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: The only report was of 3 near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).

Willow Flycatcher: 1 on 15 Sep at nesting area at Union Slough N.W.R. was identified by lack of eye ring and whit call (MCK)[3rd latest].

Least Flycatcher: First: 24 Aug at Ames (JJD) and in Warren Co. (AMJ). Last: 24 Sep at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Eastern Phoebe: Last: 2 on 27 Oct near Stone City (CE).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Last: 29 Sep at L. Ahquabi (JSi).

Western Kingbird: All: 3 on 4 Aug at Port Neal (BFH), 3 on 7 Aug in Emmet and Dickinson counties (DHe), 3 on 21 Aug at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), and 1 on 5 Sep in Harrison Co. (AMJ).

Eastern Kingbird: Last: 3 Oct at Coralville Res. (JLF)[3rd latest]. High counts: 48 on 29 Aug in Guthrie Co. (RLC) and 26 on 11 Sep coming to roost at Waubonsie W.A. (BKP/LJP).

Horned Lark: High count: 2,550 on 21 Nov in Osceola Co. (SJD).

Barn Swallow: Last: 2 on 24 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF). High count: 2,000 on 21 Sep at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Pinyon Jay: An immature bird appeared at the feeder of Gaylan and Lloyd Crim in rural Boone Co. on 30 Nov (*JJD, *MPr, *THK). This is the second Iowa record and apparently only the second record east of Nebraska.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: First: 11 Aug at Ames (Karen Craft fide JJD). There were 6 reports from September and 2 from October.

Brown Creeper: The first migrants were noted on 26 Sep at Diamond L. (MPr) and Fairfield (DCP).



*Sabine's Gull, Spirit Lake,
2 Oct 1996. Photo by Ed Thelen*

Carolina Wren: There were reports from Johnson, Marshall, and Polk counties, which must greatly under estimate the occurrence of this species.

House Wren: Last: 19 Oct at Cedar Rapids (CE).

Winter Wren: First: 15 Sep at Grammer Grove (MPR). High count: 7 on 8 Oct at McLamarrah P. in Scott Co. (PCP).

Sedge Wren: Last: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MPR). High count: 16 on 6 Aug singing at Hayden Prairie (DeC).

Marsh Wren: Last: 1 on 26 Sep at Diamond L. (MPR).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 23 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE)[3rd earliest]. Last: 30 Nov at Iowa County P. (SJD-details). One with a mostly white head and large ruby crown was in Iowa City on 13 Nov (THK).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Last: 18 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR).

Veery: All: 31 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR) and 6 Sep at Parker's Woods in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: All: 2 on 2 Sep at Ames (PM) and an October report without details.

Swainson's Thrush: First: 27 Aug at Sioux Center (JV). Singles were seen on 23 Sep at Cedar Rapids (DLD) and 24 Sep at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). A very late bird was identified by lack of red in tail and well-defined spectacles on 14 Nov in Des Moines ("RIC")[ties latest].

Hermit Thrush: First: 5 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). Last: 30 Nov at Kettleson-Hogsback A. (ETH).

Wood Thrush: A window-kill was noted in Iowa City on 29 Sep (THK).

Gray Catbird: Last: 28 Nov at Saylorville Res. (PJW).

American Pipit: First: 23 Aug at 7 Cities Sod Farms in Scott Co. (PCP)[3rd earliest]. Last: 7 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). High count: 20 on 8 Oct at Christopherson Sl. in Dickinson Co. (ETH). There were 10 other reports.

Northern Shrike: Only 1 was reported.

White-eyed Vireo: All: 5 Aug at Huron Is. in Des Moines Co. (PCP) and 7, 9 Sep at White Wildlife Preserve in Cerro Gordo Co. (AMJ, RGo).

Solitary Vireo: First: 1 Sep at Ames (PM). Last: 16 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK) and Fairfield (DCP). High count: 8 on 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last: 1 singing on 22 Sep in Boone Co. (SJD). On 7 Sep, a young bird was following a parent at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Warbling Vireo: Last: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR-details)[record latest]. Another was at Saylorville Res. on 25 Sep (SJD).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 16 Aug at Decorah (DeC). Last: 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). High count: 12 on 15 Sep at Iowa City (CE).

Red-eyed Vireo: Last: 9 Oct at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Adults were still feeding young on 1 Sep at A. A. Call S.P. (a cowbird, MCK) and L. Ahquabi (JSi).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 27 Aug at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS) and Pine L. in Hardin Co. (MPR). Last: 22 Sep at Liscomb (MPR). There were reports from 7 locations.

Tennessee Warbler: First: 24 Aug at Backbone S.P. (MPR). Last: 21 Oct at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 16 on 10 Sep at L. Meyer (DeC).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 10 Sep at Fairfield (DCP). Last: 12 Nov at Iowa City (THK). High count: 17 on 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Nashville Warbler: First: 23 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 23 Oct near Spirit Lake (ETH). High count: 16 on 15 Sep at Ames (SJD).

Northern Parula: First: 3 on 13 Sep at Yellow Smoke P. in Crawford Co. (SJD). Last: 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). High count: 4 on 16 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Yellow Warbler: Last: 28 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE)[3rd latest]. Other September records were 2 on 12 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JSi) and 1 on 22 Sep at Liscomb (MPR).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 20 Aug in Parker's Woods in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Last: 2 on 30 Sep at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 27 on 31 Aug at Ames (PM).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 25 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). Last: 7 Oct at Fairfield (DCP). High count: 11 on 2 Sep at Ames (SJD).

Cape May Warbler: All: 15 Sep at Ames (PM), 19 Sep at Wolf Creek R.A. in Grundy Co. (SJD), and 13 to 30 Nov at a feeder in Indianola (JSi)[record latest].

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 14 Sep at Saylorville Res. (DT) and 8 Oct at McLamarrah P. in Scott Co. (PCP).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 31 Aug at Dunbar Sl. (RR). Last: 17 Nov in Buena Vista Co. (JJD, SJD). High count: 75 on 13 Oct at Ames (PM).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 1 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). Last: 8 Oct at Marshalltown (SJD).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). Last: 23 Sep in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

Yellow-throated Warbler: All: 1 at Red Rock Res. on 15 Aug (JLF) and 2 there on 27 Aug (AB); 1 in northeastern Warren Co. on 5 Sep (SJD).

Pine Warbler: All: 25 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details), 28 Sep at Liscomb (*MPR), and 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (*MPR).

Palm Warbler: First: 3 on 9 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC).

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 25 Aug at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Last: 28 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC). High count: 8 on 16 Sep at Jefferson County P. (SJD).

Cerulean Warbler: All: 3 Aug near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 20 Aug in Cerro Gordo and Marshall counties (RGo, MPR). Last: 6 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 12 on 8 Sep at McIntosh Woods S.P. (SJD).

American Redstart: Last: 6 Oct in Cerro Gordo Co. (MPR).

Prothonotary Warbler: All: 3 on 4 Aug in Warren Co. (JSi).

Ovenbird: 1 was in a yard in Carroll from 11 Sep to 18 Oct (EBW)[record latest except for two winter records].

Northern Waterthrush: First: 15 Aug at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. (HZ).

Louisiana Waterthrush: An adult was feeding 2 fledglings on 3 Aug near Stone City in Jones Co. (CE).

Kentucky Warbler: All: 27 Aug at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS).

Mourning Warbler: First: 23 Aug at Parker's Woods (RGo) and Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Common Yellowthroat: Last: 12 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 21 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 29 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP). High count: 20 on 27 Aug at Rock Valley (JV).

Canada Warbler: First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). Last: 22 Sep at Ames (PM). High count: 6 at three locations.

Yellow-breasted Chat: All: 8 Sep at White W.A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF-details, BPR).

Scarlet Tanager: There were 8 reports from 15 to 29 Sep, more than usual. A basic-plumaged male was at the Iowa City feeder of Dick and Nancy Lynch in late November and was photographed on the 21st (JLF, THK-photo).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Last: 4 Oct at Decorah (DeC).

Blue Grosbeak: All: A male was feeding a young bird on 4, 7 Aug at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. and was still there on 21 Aug (BKP/LJP); 1 was north of Missouri Valley on 23 Aug (RR).

Indigo Bunting: Last: 2 on 13 Oct at Coralville Res. (DLD).

Dickcissel: A basic-plumaged male was at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. on 28 Nov (*SJD)[2nd latest except for three winter records].

Eastern Towhee: 1 was at a feeder in Johnston on 30 Nov (DT).

Spotted Towhee: All: 1 male 25 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD)[2nd earliest], 1 female on 7 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD), and 1 on 28 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

American Tree Sparrow: First: 5 on 10 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK)[3rd earliest].

Field Sparrow: Last: 26 Oct at Red Rock Res. (MPR).

Vesper Sparrow: Last: 29 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details).

Lark Sparrow: Last: 29 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ)[2nd latest except for one winter record].

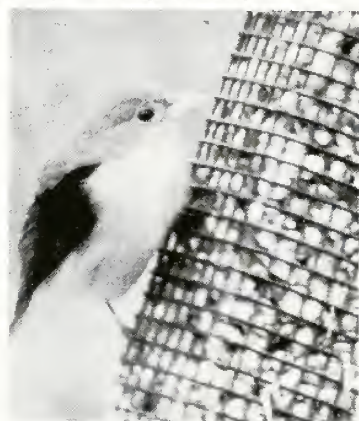
Savannah Sparrow: Last: 2 on 6 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 120 on 27 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: 2 on 6 Oct at Gordon's M. in Hamilton Co. (SJD).

Henslow's Sparrow: Singing birds were noted on 1 Aug at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (Pete Melde fide JJD), on 11 Aug at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. (DLD), on 15 Aug at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (Pete Melde fide JJD), and on 22 Aug in northeastern Wayne Co. (SJD).

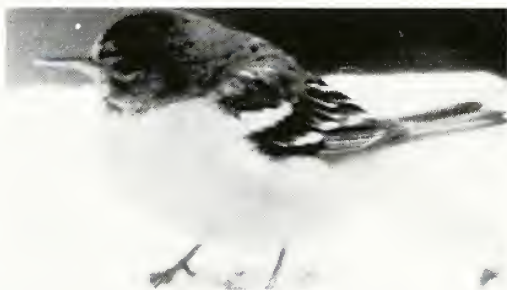
Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MPR). Last: 3 on 4 Oct at Hendrickson M. (JV).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: First: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (MPR). Last: 1 on 26 Oct at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (SJD)[record latest]. Other reports of 1 to 5 were from Iowa, Tama, Hamilton, and Clay counties from 22 Sep to 12 Oct. One of 4 at Gordon's M. in Hamilton Co. was photographed on 6 Oct (SJD).



*Scarlet Tanager, Iowa City,
21 Nov 1996. Photo by T. H. Kent*

- Fox Sparrow:** First: 23 Sep at Diamond L. (MPR). High count: 24 on 26 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** First: 3 on 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 1 on 10 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 20 on 20 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- White-throated Sparrow:** First: 23 Sep at Diamond L. (MPR).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** First: 28 Sep at Mason City (CJF).
- Harris's Sparrow:** First: 29 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). High count: 20 on 10 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** First: 2 Oct at Sioux Center (JV).
- Lapland Longspur:** First: several flocks of 400 on 10 Oct in Clay and Palo Alto counties (RR). High count: 5,000 on 9 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Large flocks were seen in north-central and northwestern Iowa from 28 Oct to 17 Nov.
- Smith's Longspur:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Snow Bunting:** First: 2 on 2 Nov at Barringer Sl. in Clay Co. (SJD). High count: 170 on 21 Nov in Osceola Co. (SJD). Many were reported with most in northern Iowa, but 3 were at Rathbun Res. by 10 Nov (TNJ).
- Bobolink:** Last: 2 on 4 Oct at Harrier M. (SJD, JJD).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Last: 2 were heard in Appanoose Co. on 6 Oct (RLC).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Last: 1 female on 22 Sep in Boone Co. (SJD).
- Rusty Blackbird:** First: 3 on 5 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** There were four reports with varying amount of detail, including three that would be record early dates. This species is often difficult to identify and hard to describe. The one documented report will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** Last: 3 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). Reports of 1 to 25 birds were from the following counties: Boone, Clay, Fremont, Greene, Marion, Monona, and Pottawattamie.
- Brown-headed Cowbird:** A flock of 6,000 on 6 Oct at Dunbar Sl. contained no Shiny Cowbirds (SJD).
- Orchard Oriole:** All: a second-year male was seen in Cass Co. on 3 Aug (MAP).
- Baltimore Oriole:** A immature male was at Dick and Nancy Lynch's feeder in Iowa City from mid-November though 30 Nov (JLF, THK, SJD).
- Purple Finch:** First: 10 Oct near Spirit Lake (ETh). Only a few were reported with most in November.
- Red Crossbill:** The July invasion continued into August with 6 immatures at Shenandoah on the 4th (MT), 2 at Indianola on the 7th (Daryl Howell fide JJD), 2 immatures from the 7th to 12th near Spirit Lake (ETh), 10 to the 10th at Algona (MCK), and 3 on the 19th at Iowa City (Cherry Sparks fide THK). Later fall birds included 9 on 26 Oct at Big Creek L. (SJD), 1 on 30 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR), 12 on 3 Nov in Ames (JJD), and 2 on 25 Nov near Spirit Lake (ETh).
- Pine Siskin:** First: 4 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Only a few were reported in October and November.
- American Goldfinch:** Subjectively, numbers seemed to be increased, but 650 on 2 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC) is an extraordinary number.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** This species was found south of Muscatine in Muscatine Co., north of Oakville in Louisa Co., and north of Burlington in Des Moines Co. on 22 Nov and southwest of Fort Madison in Lee Co. on 24 Nov (THK, RIC), suggesting that it is now established in the four most southerly counties that border the Mississippi River.



*Baltimore Oriole. Iowa City, Johnson Co.,
21 Nov 1996. Photo by T. H. Kent*

COMMENT

The database comprised 36 reports and 60 documentations (of 31 species). I made 1,461 entries into a computer database. Although more species were documented than last year, there were fewer documentations. This may be due in part to the fact that a number of rare birds were seen briefly and were not relocated by others. Most of the rarities were well documented. There were a number of excellent documentations for record early and late birds. However, lack of or sketchy details on not-so-rare birds

(e.g., Thayer's Gull, Brewer's Blackbird) that are unusually early or late provide the most frustration in decision making to me.

I thank contributors for getting their reports to me in a timely fashion. Several contributors indicated that they had checked their dates for errors. Welcome to Aaron Brees and Russell Reisz, and thanks to Eva Wiedemeyer for the Ovenbird report.

CONTRIBUTORS * = DOCUMENTATION ONLY

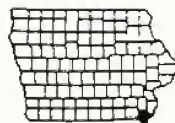
Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Aaron Brees (AB), Corydon; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; *Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Peter Erzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; *Jacob T. Gilliam (JTG), Norwalk; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Thomas N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPR), Liscomb; Russell Reisz (RR), Missouri Valley; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MT), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; Eva B. Wiedemeyer (EBW), Carroll; and Hank Zalctel (HZ), Nevada.

211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246

LAUGHING GULL AT KEOKUK

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 8 July 1994 I saw a Laughing Gull above Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk in Lee County. I was looking at some gulls resting on a log just above the lock when I noticed a smaller, slimmer gull with a dark gray mantle which I immediately recognized as a Laughing Gull. The log was barely on the



Iowa side of the river, although the Laughing Gull made several short flights which clearly carried it into Iowa. I studied the bird from 4:05-4:30 p.m. and saw it again on the morning of 9 July. The bird was slightly smaller and much slimmer than a Ring-billed Gull. The bill and legs were black. The bill was nearly as long as that of a Ring-billed Gull with a slight bulge at the tip. The legs were as long as those of a nearby Ring-billed Gull. The forehead and crown were white with a grayish wash across the nape, most pronounced in the auricular. The underparts were white except for darker gray wash on the flanks and shoulders. The mantle and upperwing were dark gray, slightly darker than those of a Ring-billed Gull. The outer primaries were black, lacking the white tips of an adult bird. In flight, at least the outermost five primaries were black; the inner primaries were dark gray and the same color as the secondaries, secondary coverts, and mantle. The undersides of the outer primaries were black. The tail was white with a narrow, broken, black subterminal band (the central

and outermost tail feathers were white). The lack of a hood, lack of brown color on the body or wings, and broken tail band were used to age the bird as second-year. Grant (*Gulls: A Guide to Identification*, Buteo Books, 1986) indicates that most second-summer birds "acquire full hood as adult summer". This bird resembled a second-winter bird (especially the bird in photo 158 on p. 238 of Grant) because of the wing pattern and lack of a hood. Grant (1986) indicates that birds may acquire second-winter plumage as early as June and July. I believe the bird may have been molting from first-summer to second-winter plumage. This is about the twelfth record of a Laughing Gull in Iowa and continues the recent increase in records of this species in Iowa.

4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 9 December 1995, I was scanning a large flock of Common Goldeneye off Whitebreast Point on the south side of Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County. I soon noted a different goldeneye which I thought to be a male Barrow's. I watched the bird intermittently from 11:35 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. Compared to nearby Common Goldeneyes, this bird had a jet black mantle, a thin dark mark extending forward from the shoulder, and a white facial spot that was shaped differently. The head mostly appeared black, but had a purplish sheen under some light conditions. The head shape was distinctive: a very steep, flat forehead, gradually sloping to the rear and creating a peaked-crown effect. The dark bill was shorter than the bill of a Common Goldeneye. The mantle and wings were jet black with a line of white spots on the scapulars extending forward to the shoulder. The bird had a long, slender, crescent-shaped white mark on the face, in front of the eye. This mark was not as crisp as I would have expected at this date, and I initially thought the bird was a first-fall male. However, consultation with Bellrose (*Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America*, Stackpole Books, 1976) revealed that this bird was certainly an adult male, probably at the very end of the molt to alternate plumage. All other plumage characters were those of an adult male. This is the sixth record of a Barrow's Goldeneye in Iowa.



4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

A FALL WHIMBREL IN POLK COUNTY

JIM SINCLAIR AND STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 27 August 1995, we were birding the islands at the north end of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. The exposed mudflats and short-grass habitat had attracted numerous shorebirds, including more than 40 Buff-breasted Sandpipers. At approximately 8:30 a.m., Sinclair saw a large shorebird alight in a shallow depression on one of the islands. Both of us focused on the bird and quickly identified it as a Whimbrel. The bird was crow-sized and brown overall with pale spots on the wings and mantle. The bill was twice the length of the head



and strongly decurved. However, the bill seemed shorter than that of most of the Whimbrels we had seen previously. The bill was mostly dark with a prominent area of pale pink color at the base, mostly restricted to the lower mandible. The head pattern was striking: pale central crown stripe, dark line through the eye, and a white line above the eye. The underparts were also mottled brown. After several minutes, the bird flew south and out of sight over the lake. In flight, we could see that the wings and wing linings were dark. When it flew, the bird gave a long series of single, loud, whistled notes which we immediately recognized as belonging to this species. Because of the shortness of the bill and the extensive pink color, we concluded the bird was a juvenile.

Whimbrels are rare migrants in Iowa. There are about 27 records of this species in Iowa, all but four of them from spring (22 April-27 May with a peak from 15-25 May). The only summer record is 1 on 26 June 1988 at Algona (*IBL* 58:109). Other fall records are of single birds: 14 September 1952 at Black Hawk Lake (Dinsmore et al. 1984), 1-2 August 1987 at Riverton Wildlife Area (*IBL* 58:19), and 3 September 1987 in northern Polk County (*IBL* 58:19). Although this species is clearly more likely to occur in spring, at least a few birds probably pass through Iowa in fall.

810 N. B St. Indianola, IA 50125 and 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE IN LEE COUNTY

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 18 December 1995 I saw an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye with a group of several thousand Common Goldeneyes on Pool 19 of the Mississippi River off Montrose, Lee County. I studied and photographed the bird from 9:20 to 10:30 a.m. at distances as close as 150 m. I was looking at a small group of Common Goldeneyes close to shore when I found a "different" male goldeneye which was easily recognizable as a male Barrow's. Compared to a male Common Goldeneye, this bird was darker-backed, had a smaller bill, a different head shape, and had black color extending forward from the shoulder. The bill was dark and was slightly shorter and slimmer at the base than the bill of a Common Goldeneye. The color of the head appeared mostly black, although in the right light there was an iridescent purple sheen. There was a small, white, comma-shaped spot on the face, in front of the eye and just above the base of the bill. This spot was smaller and of a different shape than that of a Common. The head profile was also different with a steeper forehead and a less-rounded head profile. The chest, flanks, and underside were white. The legs and feet were orange. The mantle and wings were mostly black, except for a distinct line of white spots on the scapulars that extended forward to the shoulder. A narrow black wedge extended forward from the shoulder, almost to the waterline. This is the seventh record of a Barrow's Goldeneye in Iowa. All of the records have been of males, with a possible female accompanying one of the males. By month, the records are from March (2-one remaining into April), November (2), and December (3-one remaining into January).

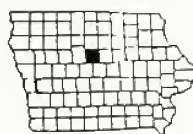


4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS IN HAMILTON COUNTY

DOROTHY WILCOX

On the morning of 4 May 1995, while I was watching some sparrows on a platform bird feeder about 12 feet from my kitchen window, I saw a male Golden-crowned Sparrow on the feeder. A closer look revealed that there were two more Golden-crowned Sparrows on the ground under the feeder. I studied the birds closely throughout the day, carefully noting the yellow crown and the distinct black line above and through the dark eye. These sparrows were slightly larger than the White-crowned and White-throated sparrows that accompanied them. They also lacked the white throat patch characteristic of the White-throated Sparrow. There were also several immature sparrows in this flock that I could not positively identify. I was able to take several photographs of these birds at the feeder



These sparrows stayed in my yard for about two weeks, spending most of their time on the feeder, on the ground beneath it, or in several nearby bushes. They fed on black sunflower seeds I provided at the feeder and seemed less aggressive than the House Finches that also fed at the feeder.

Our farm is located east of Little Wall Lake and 2.5 miles southeast of Jewell in Hamilton County. We have a number of trees and shrubs planted around our farmstead that attract a variety of birds. Since they stayed together, I assume that the Golden-crowned Sparrows were migrating with the White-crowned and White-throated sparrows.

This species is normally found along the Pacific Coast in western North America but rarely wanders east during migration. The only previous record for Iowa is one that was caught and banded near Jamaica in Dallas County in 1976 (Burns, *Iowa Bird Life* 47:63, 1977).

3575 Saratoga Avenue, Jewell, IA 50130

I.O.U. BUSINESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tama, 3 November 1996, 10:30 a.m.-2:07 p.m.

Carol Thompson, presiding, Mary Kuhlman, secretary

Present: Ann Barker, Beth Brown, Dan Dorrance, Bud Gode, Matt Kenne, Mary Kuhlman, Pete Petersen, Jim Scheib, Carol Thompson.

Budget: It was moved (Gode, seconded by Brown) to approve the 1997 budget. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Records: No report.

Membership: Beth Brown reported on her continued efforts to get birding information on public radio.

The membership committee is now responsible for the I.O.U. display.

Publications: Ann Barker reported that Harold White is now chairman of this committee.

Library-Historical: It was moved (Barker, seconded by Kenne) to approve Jan Walters, Barb Bettis,

Dennis Carter and Sue Spieker for five-year terms on this committee. Motion carried.

Nominating: The following slate of officers was proposed for the spring 1997 election:

Pete Petersen	President
Ann Johnson	Vice President
Carol Thompson	Director

Maridel Johnson Director
Curt Nelson Director

Spring Count: Pete Petersen reported he would like to increase participation.

Field Trips: Carol Thompson reported that Russ Widener, Dick Tetrault, and Carolyn Fischer have been appointed to this committee.

Environmental: No report.

Partners in Flight: Discussed birding area recommendations. Carol Thompson will respond with suggestions.

Educational Booklet: The booklet is nearly completed and will go to the printer in December. The need to promote sales was discussed. Carol Thompson reported that the REAP grant was not received. The I.O.U. had agreed to a \$2000 cash match as part of that grant proposal. Those funds are now freed.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson reported that the book is now at the printer. Discussion ensued on how to facilitate distribution of the books that the I.O.U. is buying for the schools in Iowa.

Birdline: It was moved (Barker, seconded by Gode) to express our gratitude to Jim Fuller by paying the balance of his life membership. Motion carried. A presentation will be made at the spring meeting.

Other items

Upcoming meetings: The 1997 spring meeting will be in Sioux City on 16-18 May. The fall 1997 meeting will be in Iowa City on 19-21 September.

Feeder Survey: The D.N.R. has ended its involvement with this project. The money that the I.O.U. had previously committed is now freed and will be used to enter the data as per direction of the board. It was moved (Barker, seconded by Gode) to direct the president to appoint an ad hoc committee to determine the future of the feeder survey. Motion carried.

Membership list: It was moved (Brown, seconded by Barker) to publish the membership list in the present format in the summer of 1997. Motion carried.

		I.O.U. Budget 1997	
Expenses		Income	
Publications			
Iowa Bird Life	4,760	Breeding Bird Atlas	1,500
IOU News	1,600	Education	1,000
Committees		Interest	1,750
Breeding Bird Atlas	10,250	Bird Line	150
Education	4,000	Sale of Materials	300
Field Trips	25	Membership	2,565
Library/Historical	25	Contributions	400
Membership	250	Refund (from DNR)	800
Records	400		
Winter Feeder Survey	1,300	Total	\$13,865
Officers			
President	50		
Vice-President	25		
Treasurer	350		
Secretary	25		
Iowa Bird Line	450		
Total	\$23,510		

Note: The expenses for the Breeding Bird Atlas have been planned for and budgeted for several years but those expenses will not be incurred until 1997. Money has been set aside for several years to cover those expenses.

BOOK REVIEW

Two field guides to sparrows. After years with no specialized guide to sparrow identification, Iowa birders now have two: **Sparrows and Buntings: A Guide to the Sparrows and Buntings of North America and the World** by Clive Byers, Jon Curson, and Urban Olsson. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1995, 334 pp., \$40 and **A Guide to the Identification and Natural History**

of the Sparrows of the United States and Canada by James D. Rising, illustrated by David D. Beadle. Academic Press, San Diego, 1996. 365 pp., \$19.95. As is typical in such guides, the species accounts comprise the bulk of the books. In both, those accounts cover similar topics: identification, voice, measurements, geographic variation, habits, habitat, distribution, and references. Byers has sections on sexing, and molt and aging, topics that Rising discusses under identification while Rising has a section on breeding biology which Byers covers under habits. Rising has a section discussing the history of our knowledge of the species. The sections on identification in Byers are much longer than those in Rising and seem more detailed. Although Rising's book has more pages, Byers, with a smaller font size and a double column format, has more text.

The maps in both books show the breeding, winter, and resident ranges of all species. I found those in Rising, which are in color and superimposed on base maps showing state boundaries much easier to read. The maps in Byers show no political boundaries, are colored with shades of black and gray, and hard to read. For some species Rising also has maps showing relative abundance based on Breeding Bird Survey data. Other than a few quibbles (Fox Sparrow in Rising, Harris's, Clay-colored, and Savannah sparrows and Chestnut-collared Longspur in Byers), the range maps in both books seemed to be accurate, at least for Iowa species.

A key feature of both books is the color plates. Byers has 487 color illustrations of 110 species (4.4 per species) and Rising has 314 of 62 species (5.1 per species). The color plates ranged from very good to excellent and do a good job of capturing the subtle color patterns of a group that includes many dull brown species. Most species have at least two illustrations, usually an adult and juvenile, but, for many, males and females or various subspecies are also shown. Some of the most illustrated species include Dark-eyed Junco (21 illustrations in Rising and 11 in Byers), Song Sparrow (13 in Rising), and Snow Bunting (12 in Rising). Rising also has a black and white drawing of each species, usually in a natural habitat. For many species, both books have a black and white diagram showing details of the tail, a useful identification feature. Byers also illustrates individual feathers for some species, a feature useful for in-the-hand identification.

The two books differ in their coverage. Rising covers 62 species found in the United States and Canada, including three species of seedeaters that barely reach southern Texas or Florida and seven species of buntings, most of which rarely wander to Alaska. Byers covers 110 species, including all those found in Rising as well as many Central and South American sparrows and Old World buntings.

Rising recognizes several recent taxonomic changes including the splits of the Rufous-sided Towhee and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. However, many readers will puzzle over his split of the Fox Sparrow into four species and the name Red Fox Sparrow used for the birds that migrate through Iowa. Byers does not follow these splits.

So which is the best? Byers is a bit more expensive and covers more species. I personally prefer the plates in Byers although those in Rising are also very good. However, the maps in Rising are much easier to use. If you plan to do all of your birding in North America, Rising will probably fill your needs. However, if you plan to go further afield, consider getting a copy of Byers.--J.J.D.





The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)
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James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246
Peter C. Petersen, Spring Bird Count Editor, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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Ann Johnson, Vice-President (1997), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211
Mary Kuhlman, Secretary (1998), 1300 N. 29th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Jim Scheib, Treasurer (1998), 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240
Other members of the Board of Directors: Ann Barker (1997), Beth Brown (1998), Dan Dorrance (1998), O. J. (Bud) Gode (1997), and Matthew C. Kenne (1997).

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Harold White (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg
Records: Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Raymond Cummins, Chris Edwards, James L. Fuller, Ann Johnson, Francis L. Moore, Ross Silcock
Membership: Beth Brown (chair), Jane Clark, Maridel Jackson, Curt Nelson, Jim Scheib
Library/Historical: Dennis Carter, Hank Zaletel

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

16-18 May 1997, Sioux City-joint with South Dakota and Nebraska

Fall 1997, Iowa City

Spring 1998, Ames

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (Robert Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311)

*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014.

IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I. O. U. HOMEPAGE: <http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/>

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1996 Edition: 25 for \$8.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

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